

The Service for the Lord's Day



September 18, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

529 Hendrie Boulevard
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Phone (248) 541-0108
www.fpcro.org

Please silence all devices

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

For young children, the Prayground in the back of the sanctuary is open and our nursery is also available for those who prefer childcare for infants and toddlers. Sunday school classes are available for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade during the 10:30am service, after the Time with Children.

I. GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

“Trumpet Tune on *Laast uns Erfreuen*”

Rebecca Groom Te Velde
©2015 Oxford University Press

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God gathers us in, a covenant people in this time, this place.

All: Created and called—we give thanks to the Lord!

One: Let us become a blessing to all the nations.

All: May laughter and joy overflow from our hearts.

One: We open our hearts to healing, to dignity, to life restored.

All: May all the earth be restored to wholeness and made new. Let us worship the living God.

***RESPONSE**

“It is Well”

Hymn #428

“It is well, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.”

Public Domain

***PRAYER OF THE DAY¹**

***HYMN #663**

“God’s Holy Ways Are Just and True”

Text: Barbara Woollett ©1990 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Co.)
Music: Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1623; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams Public Domain

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Our spirits long to be honest with God and to be made whole. In confession, the light of Christ shines on us, forgiving us and revealing the image of God within us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

All: Holy God, you created each one of us in your image and designed humankind as one vibrant tapestry of faces, skin, minds, and talents. From the beginning, you called us good. So forgive us when we fail to treat others with the dignity they deserve as fellow created beings. Forgive us when we slip into stereotypes and judgment, deeming one person more worthy than another. Forgive our insecurity and hunger for power that pushes us to gatekeep and elevate ourselves at the expense of others. Help us to tear down the structures and systems that oppress. Teach us to see Jesus in the eyes of every human being.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: By the power of the Spirit, we pray.

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: We are made in God's image, we are redeemed in God's love!

All: God forgives our failings and binds us together as one holy human family. We are made new in God's grace and called to love more fully.

*GLORIA PATRI

Hymn #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: As forgiven people, let's share signs of reconciliation.

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Share a sign of peace and reconciliation with your neighbors, such as a hand over your heart.

(10:30)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

II. PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Gracious God, do not allow your ancient words to lose their meaning in our modern ears. Speak to us anew. Whisper your wisdom and remake our hearts that we might be witnesses to your love. Amen.

PSALM

“Psalm 113”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Austrian Hymn*, #598 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

“Who in heav’n can be God’s equal, who on earth with God compare?

Who can raise the poor from ashes, lift the needy from despair?

God alone invites the helpless with the strong to share reward;

Fields once barren yield a harvest, tongues once silent praise their Lord.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 113 ©1999 Michael Morgan, *The Psalter for Christian Worship*, Witherspoon Press

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Pew Bible, NT pg. 224

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. Carlton Young

~Chancel Choir

“Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light. Be Thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word, I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great father and I thy true son, O thou in me dwelling and I with thee one. High King of heaven, my victory one, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, O still be my vision thou ruler of all.”

©1958 Neil A. Kjos Music Co.

SERMON

“Nothing Less Than Glory”

Rev. Emma Nickel

RESPONSE

“Joy in the Morning”

Hymn # 533 vs. 3

“There’ll be love and forgiveness everywhere, there’ll be love and forgiveness everywhere, and the way of the Lord will that day be restored, there’ll be love and forgiveness everywhere.”

Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth ©1977 Hope Publishing Co.

III. RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Prelude on *Last uns Erfreuen*”

Mark Sedio

©2000 Augsburg Fortress

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn #34

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***LITANY**²—*For Presence*, by John O’Donohue

One: Awaken to the mystery of being here
and enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.

**All: Have joy and peace in the temple of your sense.
Receive encouragement when new frontiers beckon.**

Choir: Respond to the call of your gift and the courage to follow its path.

One: Let the flame of anger free you of all falsity.

All: May warmth of heart keep your presence aflame.

Choir: May anxiety never linger about you.

One: May your outer dignity mirror an inner dignity of soul.

All: Take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention.

Choir: Be consoled in the secret symmetry of your soul.

**All: May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart
of wonder.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and
forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen**

IV. FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN #574**

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Text & Music: African-American Spiritual Public Domain

***BENEDICTION**

(10:30)

POSTLUDE

“March on *Lasst uns Erfreuen*”

David Bednall

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**Indicates please stand as you are able.*

1 Adapted from a Prayer of Commitment by Sister Joanne Caniglia, OP, *Dominican Sisters of Peace*, May 25, 2018.

2 John O’Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings* (London: Doubleday, 2008), 42.

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PROGRAM STAFF

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Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held immediately after the 10:30 am worship service on **Sunday, September 25**. The full text of proposed amendments to the Congregational By-Laws is available at the reception desk and on the church website. The changes are summarized below. Printed copies of the Annual Report are now available at the reception desk or online.

Summary of Proposed Changes to FPCRO Bylaws (September 2022)

1. FPCRO currently has separate bylaws for the congregation and the corporation. However, this format makes less sense after the Session and trustees were combined into a single board, with elders fulfilling the responsibilities formerly performed by trustees. The two bylaw format was cumbersome and at times confusing. The proposed new bylaws consist of a single document for both the corporation and the congregation. Common provisions are stated only once. Provisions specific to the corporation are contained in Article Four. Language and terms from the prior bylaws were used whenever possible to promote continuity.
2. The way in which the dates of the annual meeting and the meeting to elect officers are set is changed. The bylaws previously provided that those meetings would be on the fourth Sunday in September and the third Sunday in May. The new bylaws retains those dates but allows flexibility by providing that Session may set different dates between the second Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October for the Annual Meeting and the first Sunday in May and the first Sunday in June (not including Memorial Day weekend) for the meeting to elect officers.
3. The new bylaws reduce the size of Session from 15 members to 12, with 4 elected each year for three year terms. It also provides for the election of a youth elder for a one year term. The new bylaws also indicate that elders currently serving at the time the board's size is reduced shall serve out the remainder of their terms.

The **CHANCEL FLOWERS** today are given by Skip Eddy in loving memory of her husband, Jim.

“It is Well” Wellness Fair Today

In conjunction with our worship series on spiritual and mental wellness, we're hosting a wellness fair. **Today, after the 10:30 am worship service** in Kirkman Fellowship Hall, join us to learn more from spiritual and mental wellness professionals and practitioners. Talk with them to see how you could take advantage of their services and connect the following to your life of faith: Christian yoga, mental health counseling/therapy, spiritual direction, walking the labyrinth, a pilgrimage, and more.

CROP Hunger Walk

The **2022 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Hunger Walk** will take place **at 2 pm today**. The funds raised will help people in neighborhoods in our community and in places around the world to overcome the challenges of hunger and food insecurity.

Sunburst Singers Kids' Music Program

We are so excited to kick-off Sunburst Singers, our new kids' music program, **today at 11:30 am**. Sunburst Singers will meet from **11:30 am-12:15 pm on the First and Third Sunday of the month**. Kids from young preschool through 5th grade are welcome and invited! Questions? Contact Ms. Audrey or Pastor Emma.

Singing Justice Seminar Recital • September 25

On **Sunday, September 25, at 2:00 pm**, we have the honor of hosting *Singing Justice* in concert. Their program, “Recovering the African American Voice in Song,” will center on the creative contributions of Black musicians, poets, singers and composers through song. Featured performers will include Louise Toppin, internationally recognized soprano and faculty member at the University of Michigan, as well as six Graduate and Doctoral candidates from the University. We are fortunate to be one of the few places to host this special program and encourage all to attend this concert, which is open to the public and **free of charge**.

Days for Girls Congregational Mission Event • Sunday, October 9

October 9, after the 10:30 am service, we'll eat lunch (\$5 per adult; kids eat free) and then join together in service. Sign-up online or at the reception desk: <https://tinyurl.com/bdfpd2b>.

Through **October 9** we'll collect items to stock kits. Bring donations of New 100% cotton washcloths, New 100% cotton underwear in Girl's sizes 12 & 14, New 100% cotton underwear in Women's sizes 6, 7 & 8, New travel/hotel-size soap (*45g or smaller*) 100% cotton/cotton flannel fabric to sew washable pads. Details are in the September issue of the *Church Bell*.

Trunk or Treat Candy!

Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is **Friday, October 21**. To help make it a success, we need candy donations. In the CE lobby there's a kiddie pool just waiting to be filled! Our goal is to make over 200 goodie bags for the children who attend. We'd appreciate all candy donations to church by **Wednesday, October 12**. If you would like to make a monetary donation, indicate “trunk or treat” on your donation.