

The Service for the Lord's Day



February 19, 2023

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany – Dedication Sunday



First Presbyterian Church
of Royal Oak

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

“Prelude on *Engelberg*”

Wilbur Held

©2003 MorningStar Music Publishers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Are you ready?

All: We are ready to worship and meet God here.

One: Are you ready to be surprised?

All: We anticipate the surprise and joy of God’s love and grace.

One: Are you ready to be sent out to serve?

All: With God’s help, we are ready to follow where Christ leads.

***HYMN #592**

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn ©1978 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Cyril Taylor ©1942, Ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

CALL TO CONFESSION and KYRIE ELEISON

One: Honesty is important in all our relationships, especially our relationship with God. When we are truthful about the places we have gone astray, God promises to lead us back and to make us whole. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Holy God, we are ready to serve you and to love you. But the shadow side of being ready is being impatient. Too often, we know that we are impatient with you, with each other, and with ourselves. And so, forgive us when we jump to conclusions instead of listening. Forgive us for getting ahead of ourselves and ignoring the needs of others. Forgive us for rushing ahead, when your presence is most clear in the stillness. Help us respond to the urgency of the gospel in healthy ways. Make us ready to receive your guidance and prepared to heed it, without undue haste.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: With strong and open hearts we pray,

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear the good news. In Jesus Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away. See everything has become new!

**All: The good news of the gospel is that we are forgiven and set free!
Thanks be to God!**

***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: Let's share Christ's peace that passes understanding. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(10:30)

ANTHEM

"I Want to be Ready"

Traditional Spiritual

~Sunburst Singers

"REFRAIN: I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John. O John, O John, what do you say? Walk in Jerusalem just like John. That I'll be there at the coming day. Walk in Jerusalem just like John. REFRAIN. O John, O John, what do you see? Walk in Jerusalem just like John. A band of angels after me. Walk in Jerusalem just like John. REFRAIN."

Public Domain

(10:30)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

II. PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: God of love and light, we sit ready to hear your story of salvation and service. Prepare us to be renewed by your grace. Prepare us to share the message of love with our neighbors. Let your Spirit stir our hearts and minds. Amen.

PSALM

“Psalm 40”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Christopher*, #255 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

***“I celebrate the goodness which God has shown to me:
The patience to endure my cross, the grace to set me free.
The gifts I truly prize are such that earth cannot remove:
God’s favor for my faithfulness, and mercy for my love.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 40 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:1-6

Pew Bible, NT pg. 70

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30)

ANTHEM

“He Never Failed Me Yet”

Robert Ray

~Chancel Choir

~Peter Gibbs, tuba

“REFRAIN: I will sing of God’s mercy, every day, every hour, He gives me power. I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers, toils and snares that He has brought me out. He is my God and I’ll serve Him, no matter what the test. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet. I know God is able to deliver in time of storm. I know that he’ll keep you safe from all earthly harm. One day when my weary soul is at rest, I’m going home to be forever blessed. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet. REFRAIN. Didn’t my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh? And didn’t He cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? When I think of what my God can do, He delivered Daniel, I know He will deliver you. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet. REFRAIN.”

©1982 Jenson Publications, Inc. (Admin. Hal Leonard Corp.)

SERMON

“Ready: How God Prepares Us”

Rev. Emma Nickel

III. RESPONDING TO THE WORD

STRONG, OPEN, READY CONVERSATION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Lord, Here Am I”

John Ness Beck/Craig Courtney

~Bryan Clinthorne

“Master, Thou callest, I gladly obey; only direct me, and I’ll find the way. Teach me the mission appointed for me, what is my labor, and where it shall be. Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, ‘Ready and willing, Lord, here am I.’ Willing, my Savior, to take up the cross; willing to suffer reproaches and loss; willing to follow, if Thou wilt but lead; only support me with grace in my need. Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, ‘Ready and willing, Lord, here am I. Living or dying, I still would be Thine, yet I am mortal while Thou art divine. Pardon, whenever I turn from the right; pity, and bring me again to the light. Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, ‘Ready and willing, Lord, here am I.’”

©1984, 1990 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

***RESPONSE:** Hymn #687 “All Things Are Yours!”

During the hymn, if you brought your pledge card with you today, please bring it to the front to place in the basket. Today’s dedication includes pledges brought today, those mailed or turned in earlier this month, and those submitted online.

Text: Bryan Leech ©1989 Hope Publishing Co.

*LITANY OF DEDICATION

One: Loving God, you make us strong in faith, strong in community, and strong in love.

When we feel weak, come alongside us. When we feel strong, help us to support others.

All: Christ our friend, you keep us open to the movements of your Spirit. Open our hearts to your message. Help us open our lives to one another.

One: Spirit of life, you keep us on our toes and ready to step out in faith. When we feel ill-prepared, remind us of your presence that accompanies us each step of the way.

All: Your goodness to us is without measure. We can never fully grasp it. We can never fully return our thanks.

One: In these gifts and pledges for the coming year, we seek to show signs of our gratitude. These are symbols that acknowledge you are the Lord of our lives. Bless what we have given. Bless our plans for the future.

All: Let all our gifts be given to your glory, in the name of Christ who is strong and open, and is always ready to love and to bless. Amen.

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 #553**

“Go to the World!”

Text: Sylvia Dunstan ©1991 GIA Publications

***BENEDICTION**

(10:30)

POSTLUDE

“A Millennial Trumpet”

Franklin Ashdown
©1999 Augsburg Fortress

**Indicates please stand as you are able.*

The Liturgist at 10:30 today is Gary Moultrup.

Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE, License #A-735100. All rights reserved. Worship services in FPCRO's sanctuary are now broadcast live and are recorded and posted on our website and social media platforms. When you enter the sanctuary for a service, you consent to the recording and broadcast of your voice and likeness for such purposes without compensation.

PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Emma Nickel, Pastor, ext. 206, enickel@fpcro.org
Joseph Jackson, Director of Music Ministries and Organist, ext. 218, jjackson@fpcro.org
Kent Wattleworth, Chancel Choir Director, ext. 222, kwattleworth@fpcro.org
Audrey Frieberg, Preschool Music Director, afrieberg@fpcro.org
Joelle Jarrait, Director of Christian Education, ext. 204, jjarrait@fpcro.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kari Peruski, Church Administrator, ext. 203, kperuski@fpcro.org
Sally Gilreath, Administrative Assistant, ext. 200, sgilreath@fpcro.org
Todd Crawford, Evening Reception, ext. 200, tcrawford@fpcro.org
Alan Glasel, Facility Manager, ext. 201, aglasel@fpcro.org

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*; Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*; Olivia Donnel, *soprano*; Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*



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.

Schedule for S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry for Grades 6-12

(Somewhere To Ask God Everything)

Sunday, February 19 — Mid-Winter Break; No Meetings.

Sunday, February 26 — Let's go bowling! Meet at Bowlero (4209 Coolidge Hwy, Royal Oak) at 4:15pm. Bring \$10 to cover bowling and snacks. Pick up is at 5:45pm.

Sunday, March 5 — Meeting at Cana/Drayton from 4:30pm-6:30pm with dinner.

Saturday, March 11 — Optional activity for High schoolers: **Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation** at Greenfield Presbyterian Church from 10am to 12pm. This workshop is an interactive way to learn about why racial equity is so important to ending hunger and poverty in the US. Visit <https://www.greenfieldchurch.com/racial-reconciliation> for info and to register. Please register by February 26.

Sunday, March 12 — Meeting at Cana/Drayton from 4:30pm-6:30pm with dinner.

Sunday, March 19 — Fun activity!

Sunday, March 26 — No meetings; Happy Spring Break!

Dinner info: Students are asked to bring a \$3 donation when dinner is served at a S.T.A.G.E. meeting. This helps us offset the cost for picnics and for times when dinner is not donated. If you bring a friend for their first visit, you and your friend eat for free. Speak to a pastor or Melanie Barash if the donation is difficult for your family. Thanks for your support!

Provide Dinner and/or Volunteer at a S.T.A.G.E. Meeting

Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4fafad2ca7fd0-stage> to sign up!

Volunteer at a S.T.A.G.E. Meeting

Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4fafad2ca7fd0-stage1> to sign up!

Online Giving: Giving online is a fast and easy way to give at FPCRO. Through our PayPal page you may give a one-time gift, or you may set up recurring gifts using a debit/credit card, or your PayPal account. Thank you!



Today's **CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Karen & Kevin Kline in celebration of their grand daughter Abigail Frieberg's first birthday

Listen to The Forging Faith podcast!

In episode 8 of our podcast, which releases on Wednesday, Pastor Emma shares her thoughts on the conversations that comprised the first season of The Forging Faith podcast. Listen at the church website (<https://www.fpcro.org/podcast>) or search "Forging Faith" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or other podcast platforms.

Free Church Garage 'Sale' & Coffee Hour

Come to Kirkman Fellowship Hall and find a treasure (or two) at the FPCRO Free Garage 'Sale.' Between services and during Coffee Hour, browse items the church is no longer able to use in its ministries. Take home your special finds—all for free! As the church's ministries evolve, so do our needs for the items we use in the church. As good stewards of God's gifts, this "give-away" will help keep our church tidy and well-maintained. You may also visit the "sale" during office hours Monday, February 20 (9am-1pm) and Tuesday, February 21 (9am-8pm).

Questions? Contact Karen Kline.

Ash Wednesday is February 22

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **February 22**. We'll worship together at **7 pm** in the Sanctuary. If you can't make it to church, visit the parking lot between **12 noon and 1 pm** on **February 22 to receive Drive-up Ashes**. Then watch the livestream of worship at 7 pm.

Our theme for the season is **Re-Framing Lent**.

Bible Study for Lent

This four-week study, *Improving Baptism*, will look at scripture passages that reflect the challenges of being Jesus' disciple when we know that this journey of Lent leads to a cross. What practices, disciplines, engagements will aid us in the renewal of our baptism and guide us on our journey of following Jesus? This study will meet via **Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays March 8, 15, 22, 29** and will be led by the **Rev. Neeta Nichols**.

Snack Pax Mission Project

On **Sunday, February 26** we'll pack bags in Kirkman Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 am service for **Snack Pax**—a program of Song & Spirit Center in Royal Oak. They provide snacks to area children at or below the poverty level. All 400 bags have been picked up! Please make sure to return your decorated bags today, **Sunday, February 19** on the table in the CE Lobby.

Great Lakes Pilgrimage Renewal Weekend

Join Great Lakes Pilgrimage (<https://www.greatlakespilgrimage.org/>) for a renewal weekend, **March 10-12** at Echo Grove Camp and Retreat Center in Leonard, Michigan. This is an experience in Christian living and sharing. The weekend includes chapel, communion, small group discussions, sharing, music, singing, laughter, and prayer. FPCRO member Norm Bayne is helping coordinate the retreat. Partial scholarships available. Contact Joelle Jarrait.