

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

FEBRUARY 14, 2024 | 7PM

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Ash Wednesday



*Spirituality | Service | Sharing*

## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

We hope you sense an authentic community here! This church is *not* for people who have everything about their faith figured out. It's not for people whose lives are neat and tidy. *This is a community gathered in Christ.* Together, we are seeking a world made whole. The Holy Spirit draws us together with our doubts, struggles, *and* our celebrations. God is at work transforming us and showing us glimpses of Christ's light in the world!

Our worship service follows a traditional format. Our prayers and preaching put the Bible in conversation with practical questions to help us live faithfully in our daily lives. Our community is made up of people who bring different experiences and perspectives. Together, we trust in God's grace and love, which are free gifts to us, no matter what life brings our way. We don't need to earn that love, yet we can always rely on it.

If you are seeking to be comforted, challenged, or to grow in your faith, we would be honored to accompany you on that journey. You are welcome here just as you are.

*Rev. Emma Nickel*

Pastor

## Children Belong Here

There is a place for families and children of all ages here! We believe children who worship with their church family stick with their faith for a lifetime. Choose what works best for your family:

- *Playground* in the back of the sanctuary, where children may do quiet activities, with you nearby to assist, as they absorb the worship service.
- *Pew Pouches* with children's Bibles to help guide children who sit with their family during the worship service. Find these in the back pew.
- *Sunday School: Following the Time with Children*, kids may go with Sunday school leaders to class, which ends at the conclusion of the worship service.
- *Nursery: Childcare* for infants and toddlers during the 10:30am service, with background-checked staff and volunteers.

## Finding Your Way

*Kirkman Fellowship Hall:* Use either staircase in the lobby to go downstairs into the Hall. *Nursery:* Located to the right of the lobby, down the hallway across from the Sunflowers Preschool classroom. *Elevator:* Down the hall, left past the Sunflowers Preschool classroom. *Restrooms:* Women's & Men's are at the top of the short stairwells in the lobby; All Gender/Single in the narthex outside the sanctuary; Accessible is at the end of the hallway near the Fireside Room. *Hearing-assist devices:* Ushers near the sanctuary doors are available to assist you.

## Interested in Joining?

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership or learning more about who we are and what we do, new member gatherings take place several times a year. To get connected, contact Rev. Emma Nickel at [enickel@fpcro.org](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org)



### Giving

Giving online is a fast and easy! Click GIVE at [www.fpcro.org](http://www.fpcro.org) to make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts may set up using a debit/credit card, or a PayPal account using the QR code. Cash/checks may be placed in the offering plates by the side aisle doors or in the basket in the narthex entry. Thank you for sharing your gifts with God and the church!





## GATHERING

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At the ◊ you may stand in body or in spirit. Bold text is read or sung in unison.

### Prelude

“Choral Dorien”

*Jehan Alain*

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### Welcome

### Opening Prayer

**Lord, as we begin this holy season of Lent, may we turn back to you with all our hearts. Through prayer, in fasting from anything that does not serve you well, and by sharing what we have with others, may our sins be forgiven and our hearts mended. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### ◊ Hymn #378

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession<sup>1</sup>

One: Creator God, you fashioned us out of dust, breathing your Spirit into us, so that we might sing your praise.

**All: But we have rejected your good gift of life in order to be our own gods, clinging to idols of our own making.**

One: We have denied our status as your creatures, making ourselves better than those we label “less-than.”

**All: We hurt people who are different through ignoring, belittling, bullying, and gossiping.**

One: We buy into damaging half-truths about survival-of-the-fittest, pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps, and succeeding at any cost.

**All: Because we do not fully trust in you, because we’re afraid there won’t be enough for us, we close our ears to the cries of those in need.**

One: We have been unfaithful stewards, O Lord. We live in a state of sin, as individuals and as a community. If it weren’t for your grace, we would perish.

**All: Remember our making, Creator God; remember we are dust.**

**And then, have mercy on us according to your loving kindness.**

**Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people you created us to be. →**

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation that we might do justice,  
love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name  
we pray, Amen.**

**Response**

“Forgive Us, Lord”

*(page over)* →

Text & Music: Jorge Lockward, 1995; ©1996 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Co.)

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: God’s mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. God is always helping us return to our faith, return to the love that created us. Into the coming season, we take that mercy and that invitation to turn toward God along with us.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

“Mercy”

Craig Courtney

~Chancel Choir

*“I dare not lift my guilty eyes. I hide my lips in trembling shame. And in the darkness of my soul, I shrink from your rekindling flame. Kyrie eleison, have mercy. In mercy cover me with grace and blot out my iniquity. Renew my heart and wash me clean; grant with Your pardon, purity. Kyrie eleison, have mercy. In equal measure of your love, You promise mercy, tender compassion to the one, who seeks Your face. A broken heart, a contrite spirit, together cry for Your forgiveness and your grace. Against You only have I sinned. My deeds are evil in Your sight. Of Your forgiveness let me sing, and in my singing take delight. Kyrie eleison. Have mercy.”*

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**Prayer for Illumination<sup>2</sup>**

**Scripture Reading**

Mark 9:30-37

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 46*

**Message**

*Rev. Emma Nickel*

**Silence for Reflection**

**Ritual of Ashes and Prayer**

*During the anthem, you are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes on your forehead or hand. Please extend your hand if you prefer to receive ashes there.*

# Forgive Us, Lord

*Perdón, Señor*

*Fine Leader*



1 For griev - ance and in - jus - tice:  
2 For weak - ness and trans - gres - sion:  
3 In your e - ter - nal mer - cy:  
1 Por tan - tas in - jus - ti - cias:  
2 Por to - das nues - tras fal - tas:  
3 En tu mi - se - ri - cor - dia:

Capo 3: (G) (A) (Bm) (Bm) (Dmaj7)  
All B<sup>b</sup> C Dm *Fine* Dm Fmaj7

For-give us, Lord. for -  
Per - dón, Se - ñor. per -

*to Beginning*



A - loof - ness and in - dif - ference:  
Re - sis - tance and re - bel - lion:  
In your sus - tain - ing grace:  
Por tan - ta in - di - fe - ren - cia:  
Por nues - tra re - bel - dí - a:  
En tu di - vi - na gra - cia:

(G) (A) (Bm) (Em) (Bm) (G) (A) (Bm)  
B<sup>b</sup> C Dm Gm Dm B<sup>b</sup> C Dm

*to Beginning*

give us, Lord. for - give us, Lord.  
dón, Se - ñor. per - dón, Se - ñor.

**Anthem****“Sign Us with Ashes”***William Rowan**The congregation is encouraged to join in the refrain.*

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God,  
 chil-dren of dust, as to dust we re-turn. Sign us with ash-es,  
 mer-ci-ful God; mark us and make us your own.

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**Prayer**

**All:** Gracious God, you created us out of the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. By your hand we live and to your hands we return when all our days are done. Grant that the awareness of our mortality may lead us not to fear, but to faith.

In our weakness teach us to look to you for strength, in our failures to turn to you and find forgiveness, and in our dying to await the gift of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Invitation to Observe the Season of Lent****Pastoral Prayer 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

**◇ Hymn #381****“Restore in Us, O God”**

Text: Carl P. Daw, ©1989 Hope Publishing Co.

**Lenten Blessing**<sup>3</sup>—Rend Your Heart: *A Blessing for Ash Wednesday*, by Jan Richardson

To receive this blessing,  
all you have to do  
is let your heart break.  
Let it crack open.  
Let it fall apart  
so that you can see  
its secret chambers,  
the hidden spaces  
where you have hesitated  
to go.

Your entire life  
is here, inscribed whole  
upon your heart's walls:  
every path taken  
or left behind,  
every face you turned toward  
or turned away,  
every word spoken in love  
or in rage,  
every line of your life  
you would prefer to leave  
in shadow,  
every story that shimmers  
with treasures known  
and those you have yet  
to find.

It could take you days  
to wander these rooms.  
Forty, at least.  
And so let this be  
a season for wandering  
for trusting the breaking  
for tracing the tear  
that will return you  
to the One who waits  
who watches  
who works within  
the rending  
to make your heart  
whole.

## Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

“Prelude in d minor”

J. S. Bach  
Public Domain

- 1 Adapted from “Corporate Confession of Sin” found in *Ash Wednesday Service from the Presbyterian Church (USA) Presbyterian Mission*, <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/ash-wednesday-service-baptized-dust> (pdf, pages 1 and 2).
- 2 Adapted from Ash Wednesday Liturgy in *The United Methodist Church's Book of Worship* (Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 1992).
- 3 By Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*.

### FPCRO STAFF

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel

*Parish Associate:* Rev. Neeta Nichols

*Dir. of Christian Education:* Joelle Jarrait

*Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist:* Joseph Jackson

*Chancel Choir Dir.:* Kent Wattleworth

*Sunburst Singers Dir.:* Audrey Frieberg

*Church Admin.:* Kari Peruski

*Facility Manager:* Alan Glasel

*Admin. Assistant:* Sally Gilreath

*Sunday/Evening Reception:* Todd Crawford

*S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director:* Jessica Gibbs

*Nursery Care Worker:* Julia Carroll

### SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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*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.*



*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. Contact the pastor if you are in need.*