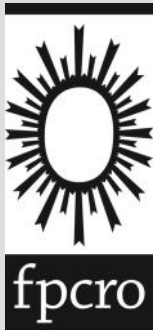


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 | 10:00AM**

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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*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 10am 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

“Adagio in a minor”

*J.S. Bach*  
Public Domain

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: Listen! God is calling!

**All: Can you hear?**

One: Calling us to put down the things that distract us,

**All: to turn away from private interests,**

One to take up our cross and follow.

**All: God is calling! Let us respond in worship and praise.**

#### ◊Hymn (*see insert*)

“Hope of the World”

Text: Georgia Harkness ©1954, ren. 1982 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing)

### Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Trusting in the power of God to save, let us confess our sins before God and this gathered community. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### Prayer of Confession

**All: Holy God, we confess that our love for you and for others has not been genuine. Our pursuits sometimes lead to worldly recognition, but at the cost of what matters most. Forgive us for not hanging on to what is good; for lagging in kindness to our sisters and brothers, for being impatient in our prayers. Forgive our sin and free us from any power other than your powers of love, goodness, and grace. Help us to live peaceably with all.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

**All: Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, hear the good news: Christ has broken the power of sin and evil and has opened to us the way of abundant life.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

# Hope of the World



1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion:  
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,  
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,  
4 Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us  
5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent;  
bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:  
show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light:  
from death and deep de - spair, from sin and guilt:  
who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain:



save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,  
still let thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en  
walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways  
we ren - der back the love thy mer - cy gave us;  
we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.  
to heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.  
lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.  
take thou our lives and use them as thou wilt.  
thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

## ◇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: Forgiveness and peace are Christ's gifts to us as individuals and in community. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Time with the Children



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: By the power of your Spirit, O Lord, make your message become a joy to us and the delight of our hearts. Amen.**

### Psalm

“Psalm 26”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Hamburg*, #261 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**“Be Thou my judge, O Lord, my God, for I have walked among the just; With confidence, I shall not fall, for always Thou hast been my trust.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 26 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 18*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

“The Gain in Losing”

*Rev. Emma Nickel*



## THANKSGIVING

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### Invitation to the Offering

#### Offertory

“How Lovely are Thy Dwellings”

*Samuel Liddle*

*~Mackenzie Kirkwood*

*“Refrain: How lovely are Thy dwellings, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longeth, yea, fainteth, for the courts of the Lord: My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house, and the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young, even Thy altars, O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God. O Lord God of Hosts, hear my prayer, I would rather be a doorkeeper*

*in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness, for a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. Refrain.”*

©1908, ren. 1936 Boosey & Hawkes

◇ **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**

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**Invitation**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer<sup>2</sup>**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: God of heaven and earth...We join our voices in praise:

***("Holy, Holy, Holy Lord": see insert)***

One: Thank you especially for the gift of your Son...Whenever we share this meal, we do it in remembrance of him:

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

One: Thank you, too, for your Holy Spirit...This we pray in your holy name, saying together:

**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**

**Words of Institution**

# Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



## Communion of the People

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion! You are welcome at God's table here regardless of your denomination or affiliation.*

*The bread and cup are offered in a basket at the entrance to the service for each worshipper to bring with them to their seat. When invited by the pastor, please open the top film of packaging to eat the bread; then open the second film for the cup. We enjoy the meal together as a sign of our unity in Christ. A gluten free option is available. Please place trash in the bins located near the exits or in the narthex.*

## Prayer After Communion

**All: Lord God, we give you thanks for the bread of heaven we have shared, a generous gift of your abundant grace. Teach us to share our food, that all may have enough for each day and enjoy the fullness of life you offer; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**



## SENDING

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### ◇ Hymn #344

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Text: Anonymous; Music: Indian Folk Tune, Public Domain

### ◇ Benediction

### Postlude

“Fantasy in a minor”

*J.S. Bach*  
Public Domain

1 Portions of today's liturgy adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Vol 2*. Ed. Kimberly Bracken Long (Louisville: Westminster John Knox), 2014).

2 Communion liturgy adapted from *Connections: Worship Companion, Year A, Vol 2*, ed. David Gambrell (Louisville: Westminster John Knox), 2023).

### LITURGIST

Gretchen Hirsch



*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.*



## **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

## **FPCRO SOLOISTS**

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

*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.*

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Chancel Flowers**

Today's flowers are given by Linda & Ken Noble in honor of all the students and teachers starting a new school year.

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### **Kick Off Sunday & Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 10**

Next Sunday our program year worship schedule returns. Join us at **9am in Evans Chapel** and at **10:30am in the Sanctuary**. Sunday School for children returns during the 10:30am service.

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### **Flu Shots September 10 from 9am until 12noon**

Protect yourself this season with a flu shot from Rite Aid **Sunday, September 10**. Bring your drivers' license, insurance card, and complete your form ahead of time—available online or at the reception desk. Children over three years old may receive a vaccine. Deacons will be hosting a Fellowship Coffee Hour following the 10:30am service.

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### **Bible Readings in Worship 2023-24**

Starting **September 10**, passages from the **Narrative Lectionary** will be read in worship. This annual cycle of readings takes us chronologically through the Bible. From September to May, we'll journey from creation, to God's covenant; the prophets, to the incarnation of Jesus, his ministry, death, and resurrection; through stories of the early church. This will help us better understand the overall story arc of the entire Bible. Sunday morning Bible Study (9am in the Fireside Room) and children's Sunday school classes will read the same passages each week. Join us to dig deeper into God's message!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### **Naomi-Ruth Circle Meets Wednesday, September 13 at 10:30am**

Women of FPCRO, mark your calendars and attend Naomi-Ruth Circle! The first meeting is **Wednesday, September 13, at 10:30am**. Circle meets at 10:30am in the Fireside Room the second Wednesday of the month September to June. We begin with fellowship and snacks, share joys and concerns, and learn of various missions, and conclude with Bible Study. This year's study is "*Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke through Acts*," produced by Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study.

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### **Annual Meeting of the Congregation is Sunday, September 17**

The Annual Meeting will be held immediately after the 10:30 am worship service **September 17**. All members are encouraged to attend. Copies of the Annual Report will be available beginning Sunday, September 10 online. Hard copies available at the reception desk.

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### **Sunburst Singers for Children begins Sunday, September 17**

Join our music program for children (preschooler-early middle schooler), following worship on **September 17 until 12:15pm**. Sunburst Singers meets after worship on the **first and third Sundays of each month**. Speak to Audrey Frieberg or Joseph Jackson with questions.

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### **CROP Walk is Sunday, September 17**

The 2023 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Walk is **September 17 at 1:30pm**. Register online, make a donation, sponsor the FPCRO team at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/ferndalemi>. Funds help local people and others worldwide overcome challenges of food insecurity.

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### **Rise Against Hunger Mission Event**

Sign up to pack meals on **Sunday, September 24**. Following lunch (between worship and the start of the event) this intergenerational event will run from 12:15-2:30pm, is high energy and open to all! We need 60 volunteers to pack food! Signup online to participate: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/EPCRO2023>.

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### **Spiritual Retreat Weekend October 13-15**

Take part in the Great Lakes Pilgrimage weekend at Echo Grove Camp and Conference Center in Leonard, Michigan. This renewal weekend offers introspection, discussion, laughter, and singing. Participation can be life altering. Please see Norm Bayne for details.

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### **Organ Concert: Save the Date!**

Save the date of **Friday, November 3 at 7pm** for ***Pulling Out All the Stops: An Organ Concert with Joseph Jackson***. The concert is free and open to the public. Session has approved a ticketed Wine & Cheese Reception prior to the event in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$10 for those under 21, and will be ready for purchase soon.

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