

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

**JULY 27, 2025 | 10:30AM**

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Seventh 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.

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:

- The *Prayground* in the back of the sanctuary, where children may do quiet activities, with you nearby to assist, as they absorb the worship service. Third graders and older are encouraged to sit with their family in the pews.
- The **Backyard Playroom** is a free program offering a safe, indoor environment for children ages five (5) and under to play under parental/guardian supervision, and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 12pm.
- 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 fast and easy! Click GIVE at [www.fpcro.org](http://www.fpcro.org) to make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts may be 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

Two Settings on the German Hymn  
“Punish Me Not in Thy Anger”

*Johann Caspar Simon*

*Max Reger*

Public Domain

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ♦ Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: We come to worship the God of the ages

**All: who is more faithful than we could ever be,**

One: more gracious than we can imagine,

**All: and more powerful than we can dream.**

One: We come to worship the God of this moment,

**All: who is here with us today!**

#### ♦ Hymn (*see insert*)

“O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer”

Public Domain

### Call to Confession

One: Our God is not easily angered, but rather, is rich in love. God is sheer mercy and grace. And so, we can open our hearts in confession. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

### Prayer of Confession<sup>2</sup>

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we do not handle anger well. We reach for it too quickly or are afraid to touch it at all. We misdirect our anger, hurting others and ourselves. We ignore what our anger can teach us because we are afraid or ashamed. We let it fester, and the wounds never heal. Forgive us God, and direct our lives that we might use all your good gifts to produce good fruit for your world.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Through Christ, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

One: As high as the heavens are above the earth, so strong is God's love for the people.

**All: Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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: When the storms of life are all around us, we need a peace that passes understanding.  
So may the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## **Time with the Children**

*After the Time with the Children, kids may go to Sunday school classes with their teachers. They will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.*

# **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

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## **Prayer for Illumination**

**All: Holy God, it is right and good to spend time in your word, soaking in your grace and preparing our hearts for service. Speak to us now through the scriptures that we may be formed as disciples who speak up for what's right and show up for our neighbors. By the power of your Spirit, we pray, Amen.**

## **Scripture Reading**

Psalm 103:6-12

*Pew Bible, OT pg. 613*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 4:25-29

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 207*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

"Anger: A Faithful Spiritual Practice?"

*Rev. Emma Nickel*

# THANKSGIVING

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## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“Witness”

Arr. Hall Johnson

~Mackenzie Kirkwood

*“Oh, Lord, what manner of man is this? All nations in Him are blest; all things are done by His will; he spoke to the sea and the sea stood still. Now ain’t that a witness for my Lord? My soul is a witness for my Lord. Now there was a man of the Pharisees his name was Nicodemus and he didn’t believe. The same came to Christ by night, wanted to be taught out of human sight. Nicodemus was a man desired to know how a man can be born when he is old. Christ told Nicodemus, as a friend, “man, you must be born again.” Said, “Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise, repent, believe, and be baptized.” Then you’ll be a witness for my Lord. Soul is a witness for my Lord. You read about Samson, from his birth strongest man that ever lived on earth. Way back yonder in ancient times he killed ten thousand of the Philistines. Then old Samson went wandering about; Samson’s strength was never found out till his wife sat up upon his knees. She said, “Tell me where your strength lies, if you please.” Now Samson’s wife, she talk so fair, Samson said, “Cut off my hair. Shave my head just as clean as you can and my strength will come like a natural man. Old Samson was a witness for my Lord. Soul is a witness for my Lord. That’s another witness for my Lord, my soul is a witness for my Lord!”*

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### ◊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

**Affirmation of Faith**—Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33.

One: The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.

**All: His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God’s judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church’s own complicity in injustice.**

One: In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God’s renewal of human life in society and of God’s victory over all wrong.

**All: The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action.  
So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.**

## **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**



## **SENDING**

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### **◇ Hymn (*see insert*)**

**“Gentle God, When We Are Driven”**

Text: Shirley Erena Murray; Music: Jillian Bray; Both: ©1992 Hope Publishing Co.

### **◇ Benediction**

### **Postlude**

**“Toccata in d minor” Op. 59 No. 5**

*Max Reger*  
Public Domain

- 1 Call to Worship by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett  
2 Prayer of Confession adapted from the Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett.

## **MUSIC NOTES**

The German Hymn “Punish Me Not in Thy Anger” first appeared in print in 1694. The text is a paraphrase of Psalm 6 by Johann Georg Albinus. The text states: “Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint; heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long?” We hear two settings of this tune by two German composers, one by Johann Simon from the late 1700s, the other by Max Reger from 1902.

## **LITURGIST**

Kay Aquilina

## **FPCRO STAFF**

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel  
*Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist:* Joseph Jackson  
*Chancel Choir Dir.:* Kent Wattleworth  
*Church Admin.:* Kari Peruski  
*Admin. Assistant:* Sally Gilreath  
*S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director:* Jessica Gibbs  
*Nursery Care Worker:* Abby Pochron

*Dir. of Christian Education:* Joelle Jarrait  
*Organ Scholar:* John Etsell  
*Sunburst Singers Dir.:* Audrey Frieberg  
*Facility Manager:* Alan Glasel  
*Sunday/Evening Reception:* Todd Crawford  
*Backyard Playroom Coordinator:* Ashleigh McKnight

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given in honor of our FPCRO families.

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## July Sabbath

As we have for the past several years, FPCRO is observing a sabbath month during July 2025. During July, our church's programs and ministries are taking a Sabbath. Sunday worship and Sunday school still happen as usual, and staff continue working regular schedules. But, we are taking a rest from committee meetings, board meetings, and we are not adding any new mid-week programs, activities, or ministries to our calendar. All are encouraged to **rest in God and find refreshment in the Spirit!** If you're interested in books or resources to learn more about sabbath, email Pastor Emma. In July 2023, we enjoyed a worship series about sabbath. There are great books and resources that can help you shape this practice for your own life.

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## School Supply Drive

Now through August 18, we are collecting school supplies for neighbors at Oakland Elementary School in Royal Oak. Oakland Elementary serves grades K-5 and has a population of 208 students, 42% of whom are economically disadvantaged. The school and students are very appreciative of our donations! Requested supplies include: 12-ct Colored Pencils, 10-ct Washable Markers, Dry Erase Markers (Colored), Highlighters, Elmer's Glue Sticks, 24-ct Crayola Crayons, Pre Sharpened Wooden Pencils, Composition Notebooks, Primary Composition Book, Post It Notes, 8-ct Watercolor paints, Index Cards, Plastic Folders with Pockets, Plastic Folders with Pockets and Prongs, Panasonic Headphones, Play Doh, Bingo Daubers, Plastic Cups, Coloring Books, Water Bottles (no Straw).

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## Sunflowers Preschool Registration

There are still a few spots left for the 2025-26 school year in the 3- and 4-year-old classes at Sunflowers Christian Preschool. We are looking forward to a great year and would be honored to have your child, or the children of someone you know, join us for learning and fun. To learn more, call the preschool at (248) 541-0108 or email [\*\*preschool@fpcro.org\*\*](mailto:preschool@fpcro.org)

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## Opportunity to Usher on Sunday Mornings

The Worship and Nurture Committee is looking for ushers. Simply arrive 20-25 minutes ahead of the 10:30am service to greet folks and hand out bulletins. After worship, retrieve the completed pew rack Friendship pad forms. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Gail Meengs.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### Lend a Hand to Deep Clean the Backyard Playroom

The Backyard Playroom will be hosting a volunteer clean-up day to disinfect and sort items in the Playroom. We'll be wiping down all the toys and surfaces, going through the toy bins and discarding any broken toys or those with missing parts, and vacuuming the carpet at the end. If you'd like to volunteer your time, we'll be cleaning on **August 8 from 1-3pm**. Contact Ashleigh, the BYP Coordinator, to sign-up to participate!

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### End of Fiscal Year Gifts & Offering Envelopes

As the fiscal year draws to a close, we want to thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the ministry of FPCRO. Your gifts throughout the year make all the ministries at FPCRO possible! We are so grateful for your pledges and gifts to God through the church. Our church's fiscal year ends on July 31. We encourage you, as you are able, to complete your current year's pledge by that date. To be counted toward this budget year, **all gifts need to be received in the church office or postmarked by July 31**. New pledges for the 2025-2026 fiscal year take effect on August 1. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

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### Chancel Flower Dedications

A flower dedication is a special opportunity to celebrate, remember, or honor a member of our church or your family. Please consider signing up for a dedication in late July or early August. Contact Chris Klein if you have any questions.

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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. Contact the pastor if you are in need.*



# O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

(Psalm 103)



1 O my soul, bless your Re-deem-er; all with-in me bless God's name;  
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all dis-eas-es gent-ly heals;  
3 Far as east from west is dis-tant, God has put a-way our sin;  
4 As it was with-out be-gin-ning, so it lasts with-out an end;



bless the Sav-ior, and for-get not all God's mer-cies to pro-claim.  
God re-deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.  
like the pit-y of a fa-ther has the Lord's com-pas-sion been.  
to their chil-dren's chil-dren ev-er shall God's righ-teous-ness ex-tend:



5 Unto such as keep God's cov'nant  
and are steadfast in God's way;  
unto those who still remember  
the commandments and obey.

6 Bless your Maker, all you creatures,  
ever under God's control,  
all throughout God's vast dominion;  
bless the Lord of all, my soul!

These stanzas are selected from sixteen that originally made up this paraphrase of Psalm 103, the second of two versions in the volume where they were first published. The tune used here was probably created as a German psalm tune but later came to be used with hymn texts.

# Gentle God, When We Are Driven

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Jillian Bray

TAWA

8.7.8.7.7.7.

*Unison*



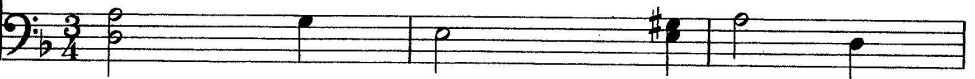
1. Gen - tle God, when we are driv - en past the  
2. Gen - tle Spir - it, when our rea - son clouds in  
3. In the mir - ror of earth's mad - ness let us  
4. Let our strength be in for - giv - ing as for -



lim - its of our love, when our hurt would have a  
an - ger, twists in fear, when we strike in - stead of  
see our rav - aged face, in the tur - moil of all  
giv - en we must be, one to one in cost - ly



weap - on and the hawk de - stroy the dove, at the  
strok - ing, when we bruise and sting and smear, cool our  
peo - ple let com - pas - sion find a place, touch our  
lov - ing, find - ing trust and grow - ing free, gen - tle



cost of seem - ing weak, help us turn the oth - er cheek.  
burn - ing, take our pain, bring us to our - selves a - gain.  
heart to make a - mends, see our en - e - mies as friends.  
God, be our re - lease, gen - tle Spir - it, teach us peace.

