

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MARCH 10, 2024 | 9 & 10:30AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent



fpcro

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



Giving

Giving online is a fast and easy! Click GIVE at 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

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

Prelude

9:00

“Adagio in f minor”

W.A. Mozart

10:30

“Talk About a Child That Do Love Jesus”

Spiritual arr. Calvin Taylor

©1998 Calvin Taylor Publishing

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: We are called to love the Lord our God.

All: We are called to love with all our heart and soul.

One: We are called to love the Lord our God.

All: We are called to love with all our heart, mind, and strength.

One: We are called to love the Lord our God.

All: And we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.

One: Come, let us love our God and share God’s love in this time of worship!

◊ Hymn #11

“Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

Public Domain

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Even when we turn away from God, God still waits for us and offers us mercy. Because we trust in that promise, we can be honest with God in prayer. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Loving God, we are aware that all is not right within us. We neglect your word, we forget to speak with you, we make plans without turning to you, we do things that we know are wrong. We do not put you first in our lives. Forgive how we have failed to love you with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength. Loving God, we also know that our relationships are not all that they can be or should be. There is hurt and injury between us. Forgive us for how we deny our part in this. Forgive how we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. God, we believe that you offer a whole and good life to us and the world. For all that we have done to stand in the way of this, we ask your forgiveness and your mercy.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through the Holy Spirit, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: As you choose again this day to love God and to love one another, know that God has forgiven you for what is past and offers to you a new and full life.

All: Praise be to the name of God, now and forever!

◇ **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: Because we are forgiven, we can share the peace Christ gives. Peace be with you!

All: And also with you.

(10:30am)

Time with the Children

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

Minute for Mission

Hendrie Parking Lot Update

Kevin Ball



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Dear God, let your Spirit speak to us of hope and love. Let our hearts receive that goodness with joy. Let our lives reflect the good news in our actions. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 89”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Hymn to Joy*, #59 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

“We will ever sing Your mercy, tell abroad Your faithfulness;

Who throughout all generations keeps the covenant to bless.

Sun and stars shall praise Your wonders, all the earth, such glories share;

None in heav’n can match Your greatness; none below with You compare.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 89 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Mark 12:28-44

Pew Bible, NT pg. 50

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“If Ye Love Me”

Thomas Tallis

~Chancel Choir

“If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may bide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.”

©2002 Oxford University Press

Sermon

“Love with All Your Mind and Might”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“The Love Commandment”

W.A. Mozart

~Audrey Frieberg

“Love all that surrounds you in all your living. Love order, peacefulness and harmony. Love all people as your family. Learn to love all people as your family. Learn to love the beauty in all you see, the strong in body, the mighty in wisdom. Give each in friendship your hand of faithfulness, and to each one be truthful; give each one your love, and to each one be truthful all the days of your life.”

©1961 Lawson-Gould Music Publishers

◇ **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—from the French Confession of 1559²

All: We believe and confess only one God, who can do all things, is all-wise, all-good, all-just, and all-merciful.

We believe that everything required for our salvation has been offered and communicated to us in Jesus Christ—the wisdom of God and God’s eternal Son.

Jesus Christ clothed himself in our flesh: God and human in one person.

We believe that we are illuminated in faith by the unfathomable grace of the Holy Spirit.

God imparts this gracious gift.

By faith we receive grace to live holy lives in awe and reverence for God, for we receive what the gospel promises when God gives us the Holy Spirit.

Faith does not cool our desire for good and holy living,

but rather engenders and excites it in us, leading naturally to good works.

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

◇ Hymn #132

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

Public Domain

◇ Benediction

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Fantasia in c minor”

J.S. Bach

Public Domain

1 Call to Worship by Rev. Mindi, www.rev-o-lution.org

2 From the French Confession of 1559, based on a translation of the original text by Dr. Ellen Babinsky, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Dr. Joseph D. Small, Office of Theology and Worship, PC(USA)

LITURGIST

The Frieberg family

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Nursery Care Worker: Julia Carroll

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

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

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given to by Kathie Brom, in loving memory of her mother, Margaret Brom.

Join us for Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service. Karen and Kevin Kline are hosting today.

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

Middle and high schoolers and friends are invited to our collaborative S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) youth ministry. Meetings, on select Sundays, are from 4:30-6:30pm, unless otherwise specified. Questions? Contact Director, Jessica Gibbs, at stageyouth@gmail.com. Scan the QR code for more info.

Sunday, March 10: Regular Meeting at Cana Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 17: Regular Meeting at FPCRO

Sunday, April 7: Regular Meeting at First Pres. Birmingham

Sunday, April 14: Service Project TBD

Sunday, April 21: Regular Meeting at Cana Lutheran Church



Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group will gather **Monday, March 11 at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's (2972 Coolidge Hwy) in Berkley. Please feel free to join us for a return visit or your first time! Contact Derek Helenberger or Matthew Nickel for more information.

Forgotten Harvest Volunteer Opportunity

FPCRO has reserved spots to volunteer in the Oak Park Forgotten Harvest warehouse on **Saturday, March 16 from 9am-12pm**. Volunteers must be at least 10 years of age. Please sign up on the link provided: <http://tinyurl.com/26nf8h45> We will then provide you with more information about signing up on the Forgotten Harvest website. Please contact Edie Watson or the church for more information.

Household Items Collection for Lighthouse

Thank you for helping to provide move-in baskets of household items for Lighthouse clients exiting the shelter and moving into their first apartments. If you took a tag with an item, donations are due back by **Sunday, March 24**. Thank you for sharing with our community!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Lent in Plain Sight Discussion Group

Join Pastor Emma in reading *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield. Read one devotion per day and gather at the church for discussion of each week's readings on **Wednesdays from 1-2pm, through March 27**. God is often at work through ordinary people and objects. These devotions highlight ordinary objects Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem. Read Week 5 entries on shoes for the meeting on March 13.

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper— Can you bring a soup?

Join us for a Soup Supper at **6pm** before the Maundy Thursday Worship service on **March 28**. We'll have a simple meal of soup and crackers and conversation at the table. Then we'll head to **worship at 7pm**. To make the meal possible, we are looking for volunteers to bring a crock pot of soup to share. Signup if you can donate one: <http://tinyurl.com/4w4cnsyu>

Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

Easter takes on the most meaning when we also enter the story of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. Join us for worship throughout Holy Week and on Easter Sunday!

- **Maundy Thursday**, March 28: Soup Supper at 6pm, Worship at 7pm with Communion and readings of Jesus washing his disciples feet and praying in the garden.
 - **Good Friday**, March 29: Worship at 7pm with choir, scripture, reflections, and sermon. We'll explore *the things Jesus carried* as he went to the cross, including the crown of thorns, the sin of the world, and the amazing love of God.
 - **Easter Sunday**, March 31: Worship Services at 9am & 11am in the sanctuary, with brass accompaniment, as we sing "Alleluia" and proclaim that Christ is risen, indeed!
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Kirkman Scholarship Fund Applications Due March 31

Are you discerning higher education for yourself? Church members who are high school seniors or older are eligible to apply for a one-time scholarship through the Kirkman Scholarship Fund. This fund allows us to award scholarships to members who are seeking higher education. Most forms of higher education are eligible, and are not limited to colleges and universities. Naming the place of learning at the time of application is not required. Award checks will be mailed to the school later in the year. Applications are available on our church website at www.fpcro.org. If you would like more information, please contact Joelle Jarrait.

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offerings

This is the season for One Great Hour of Sharing. Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Anytime now, through Easter, you may make an offering through the FPCRO by indicating "OGHS" on your offering. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot—thanks for your heartfelt gifts!
