

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

**FEBRUARY 18, 2024 | 9 & 10:30AM**

First Sunday of 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](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

9:00

“Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley”

*arr. Fred Bock*

10:30

“Sarabande on *Land of Rest*”

*Gerald Near*

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### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊ Call to Worship

One: Today, the journey of Lent begins—

**All: with our hand in God’s and our hopes in the future as we head for Jerusalem, with Jesus.**

One: Come, now is the time to worship,

**All: to embrace the high calling of discipleship, to open our hearts to the grace of God and let the love we know become a reality we live.**

#### ◊ Hymn #252

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

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: Giving God, you call us to be your disciples, revealing to us along the way the reality of what following means: giving as well as receiving, serving as well as being served, loving others as well as you loving us. Forgive us when we refuse to follow. Forgive us for assuming that following you demands anything less than our whole selves. Reveal to us the truth that living in your way is the most meaningful way to live. Help us to believe what you say and come closer and closer to following in the way you lead.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Through the Holy Spirit, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

(10:30am)

**Choral Response**

“Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake’

Richard Farrant

~Chancel Quartet & Choral Scholars

*“Lord, for Thy tender mercy’s sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives: to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore. Amen.”*

©1978 Oxford University Press

**Assurance of Pardon**

One: The good news of the gospel is that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. The grace of Christ covers us all, forgiving us and freeing us to live with a new intention.

**All: 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: 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. Those attending Sunburst Singers music time will be taken to practice directly from Sunday school.*

*Others will return to the sanctuary at the end of the service.*



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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**Prayer for Illumination**

**All: Dear God, to understand our faith, we go to the place where you describe it most clearly: the Bible. There, we see you when we see Jesus. As we read the scripture today, help us to see clearly, to listen fully, and to be aware of your Spirit all around us. Amen.**

**Psalm**

“Psalm 19”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Ellacombe*, #31 “I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

**“Your Word is sure and perfect still a source of light and life;**

**Your Law is right and reason-filled, Your peace, the end of strife.**

**Your everlasting truth and love can scarce be fully told:  
More sweet than honey from the comb, more precious yet than gold.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 19 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

## Scripture Reading

Mark 10:17-31

Pew Bible, NT pg. 47

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**(10:30am)**

## Anthem

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

William Harris

~Chancel Choir

*“Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine, and visit it with thine own ardor glowing; O Comforter draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing. O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn to dust and ashes in its heat consuming; and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming. Let holy charity mine outward vesture be, and lowliness become mine inner clothing: true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part, and o’er its own short-comings weeps with loathing. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long, shall far out-pass the power of human telling; for none can guess its grace, till he become the place where-in the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling. Amen.”*

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## Sermon

“Give More than You Expect”

Rev. Emma Nickel



# THANKSGIVING

## Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

John Ireland

~Brady DeVecchio

*“My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me; love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be. O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die? He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow; but sin made blind, and none the longed-for Christ would know: but O, my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need His life did spend. Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine, never was love, dear King! Never was grief like Thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.”*

©2011 Dorsey Brothers Music Limited

## ◇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 Philippians 2:5-11

**All: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. 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**



## SENDING

### ◇Hymn #345

“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”

Public Domain

### ◇Benediction

*(10:30am)*

**Postlude**

“Fugue in c minor”

*J. S. Bach*  
Public Domain

**LITURGIST**

The Frieberg family

## FPCRO STAFF

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel

*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

*Parish Associate:* Rev. Neeta Nichols

*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

## SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Todd Crawford in memory of Margaret & Ray Crawford, longtime members of FPCRO.

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Join us for Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service. Karen and Kevin Kline are hosting today in celebration of five family birthdays this month, including three in the Frieberg family, who are serving as liturgists today.

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### 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](mailto:stageyouth@gmail.com). Scan the QR code for more info.

**Sunday, February 25: Winter Social Event** 12pm, Escape Room Zone, 31401 John R Rd., Madison Heights, MI 48071

**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

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SCAN ME



*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, CONTINUED**

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### **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 2 entries on Bread for the meeting on February 21.

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### **Snack Pax Bags**

After the 10:30am worship service on **February 25**, join us to pack 400 more snack bags for children in the area who might not be getting enough to eat at home. This is a great intergenerational event for all abilities. If you still have any bags to return, bring them Sunday.

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### **A Women's Group is Forming at FPCRO**

If you're looking to meet more church members and make connections and friendships, we hope you'll participate! The group will meet for coffee and social time, with a short focus on a scripture or a theme for discussion. In order to nail down the best meeting time, please fill out the online poll: <http://tinyurl.com/3b5dspkn> or at the reception desk to denote the dates/times you are able to attend. Please respond by **February 29**. Meeting location is TBD. Questions? Speak to Amanda Curry.

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### **Adventure in Worship**

Plan to join us for our Adventure in Worship event on **Saturday, March 2 from 3pm-5pm**. Children of all ages are invited to attend with their grown-ups! There will be opportunities to learn about worship including baptism, communion, and organ music. Child care will be available for families with infants and toddlers.

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### **Easter Flower Dedications**

It's time to "think spring" with a flower dedication (choice of lily, daffodil and hydrangea) for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31. Please fill out an order form at the reception desk and turn it in with a check payable to FPCRO by **March 3**. Questions? Contact Chris Klein at 248-990-8586 or [CKlein8000@live.com](mailto:CKlein8000@live.com).

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### **Forgotten Harvest Volunteer Opportunity**

FPCRO has reserved 15 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.

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### **Household Items Collection for Lighthouse**

Help provide move-in baskets full of household items for Lighthouse clients exiting their shelter and moving into their first apartments. Take a tag off the board in the Christian Education lobby with items you want to donate. Items are due back by **March 24**.

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