

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

DECEMBER 24, 2024 | 5PM

Christmas Eve Worship



Hochhalter, Cara B., *The Nativity*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://tinyurl.com/3wtu8d5r> Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter.



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:

- 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.
- 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)



SCAN ME

## 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!

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

## Welcome

## Opening Prayer

♦ **Carol #198**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Public Domain

## Lighting the Wreath

*The Frieberg Family*

One: With each new beginning that God offers, let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace. Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.

Love comes to us most clearly in Jesus Christ – God with us. So tonight, we light the Christ Candle. For surely God is in this place. Surely the Spirit is near. Surely love knows our name.

**All: Unto us a child is born! A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Glory to God in the highest heaven!**

## Anthem

“Walk in the Light”

*trad. arr. André Thomas*

~Sunburst Singers

**“Chorus: Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world. Hark! The herald angels sing, Jesus, the light of the world; Glory to the new-born King, Jesus the light of the world. Chorus. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Jesus, the light of the world; Christ the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the light of the world. Chorus.”**

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## Pageant: “Mary Remembers”

## Mary and the Angel

**Carol #169 v. 1**

“The Angel Gabriel”

***“The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame,  
‘All hail,’ said he, “O lowly Mary,  
Most highly favored Mary, gloria!”***

## Joseph and the Angel

## **Carol**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

*“Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set they people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.”*

## **Mary and Joseph on the Road to Bethlehem**

### **Carol**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*“O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

## **Jesus is Born**

### **Carol**

“Away in a Manger”

*“Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.”*

## **Shepherds and the Angels**

### **Carol**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*“Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!”*

## **Sharing the Story**

### **Carol**

“Go Tell it On the Mountain”

*Refrain: “Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.”*

*“While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.”*

*[Refrain]*

*“The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.”*

*[Refrain]*

***“Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.”***

***[Refrain]***

## **Invitation to the Offering**

### **Melodee Bells**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Hymn #185*

“Away in a Manger”

*Hymn #203*

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

*Hymn #186*

## **Christmas 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**

## **◇Lighting Our Glow Sticks**

### **◇Carol**

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

***“Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
’round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.”***

***“Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!”***

## **◇Benediction**

### **◇Benediction Response**

“Joy to the World”

***“Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.”***

***“He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.”***

1 The Opening Prayer, Advent Wreath Lighting, and Christmas Prayer are adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

2 Pageant inspired by “Mary Remembers: A children’s Christmas drama” by Carol Christians, <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/september-1998/mary-remembers-childrens-christmas-drama>

## **PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS**

*Mary:* Beth Egan DeGuise

*Readers:* Jack and Charlie

*Children Voices:* Naomi, Charlotte K., Oliver

## **FPCRO STAFF**

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel

*Dir. of Christian Education:* Joelle Jarrait

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

*Organ Scholar:* John Etsell

*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

*Backyard Playroom Coordinator:* Ashleigh McKnight

*Nursery Care Worker:* Abby Pochron

## **SOLOISTS**

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

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

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### Advent Quilt Squares

During Advent, our Sunday school children have followed the scriptures from our series, “Words for the Beginning.” Each week they created their own unique “quilt square” as they joined in conversation about the stories and the meaning of Advent. Their finished pieces are displayed through the lobby and the narthex. They are a beautiful visual of the season.

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### The Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree in the CE Lobby is used to gather warm things for those who need a helping hand. Please think of what you might hang on the tree—gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, socks, etc. Our gifts will go to adults at the Welcome Inn and Second Mile Center, as well as kids at Second Mile Center and local schools in Royal Oak. The need is great! Thank you in advance. Questions? Contact Julie Matthews.

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### Church Office Holiday Schedule

The church office and The Backyard Playroom will be closed for the holidays, December 25-27 and January 1.

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### December 29 Family Worship

Our worship service on **Sunday, December 29** is a family worship time. Elementary-age children are encouraged to sit with their grown-ups so they may engage in worship. Younger children will have activities at the Playground. Nursery care will be available in the nursery.

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### Year End Contributions

We welcome your gifts at any time during the year, but we know many folks like to offer year-end donations. If you would like to make such a contribution to FPCRO, please make sure it is delivered to the church or postmarked by December 31 to be included on your 2024 contribution statement. Otherwise, per IRS guidelines, it will appear on your 2025 giving statement. The church offices will be closed December 25, 26, and 27. We will be open 9am-1pm on December 30 and 31. Remember you can donate online on our website **fpcro.org** anytime by clicking on the “**Give**” tab.

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### FPCRO Family Game Night Party

The Worship & Nurture Committee is pleased to host a Family Game Night Party on **Saturday, January 4, 2025 from 2-4pm**. People of **all ages** are invited to bring their favorite game to share!

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED**

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### **Ordination Service**

Join FPCRO and the Presbytery of Detroit on **Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 2pm** to celebrate the ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament for FPCRO member Lon Kuehn. A reception will follow.

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### **Men's Fellowship Group**

The Men's Fellowship Group will gather at Bagger Dave's in Berkley (2972 Coolidge) starting at **7:30pm on Monday, January 6, 2025**. Join us for some multifarious topics of conversation. If you can't join us at 7:30pm, don't worry. Join us at 8pm or 8:30pm and you can find a place in one of the conversations.

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### **Women's Fellowship Group**

Women of all ages and stages are invited to participate for fellowship, friendship, and conversation. We'll meet at North End Taproom (111. S. Main St., Royal Oak) on **Monday, January 20, 2025 at 7pm**. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food.

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