

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 | 10:30AM

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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



SCAN ME

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

“Clair De Lune”

Claude Debussy

Arranged for Organ & Piano Duo by Jonathan Scott

©2019 Jonathan Scott-jonathanscott.co.uk

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: God of wonder and love,

All: God of dreams and visions,

One: God of hope and forgiveness,

All: lead us into this time of worship.

One: Because God is with us, we are free to listen and receive,

All: pray and praise,

One: share and love,

All: forgive and be forgiven. And so we worship God!

◊ Hymn (*page over*)

“God, How Can We Forgive”

Text: Ruth Duck ©1996 The Pilgrim Press

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are lax with our commitment. Without fear then, we can confess our sins. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

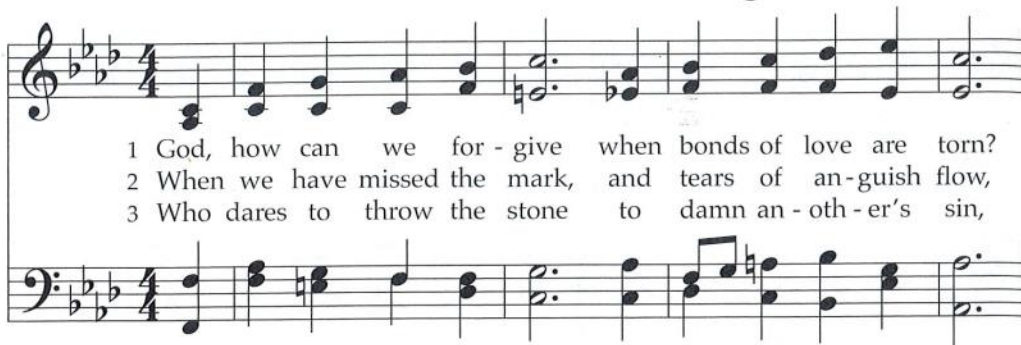
All: Forgiving God, you have welcomed us into your family where each of us belongs. You invite us to live together sharing and caring for each other. But families are rarely easy. And so, we ask for your forgiveness when we are jealous, when we are selfish, when we are rude, when we are less than you call us to be. Restore us to a full and healthy relationship with you and with the members of your wider family. May we come to accept our differences, embrace each other's peculiarities, and enjoy the sense of belonging that your family brings.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Trusting in your holy name, we pray,

All: Amen.

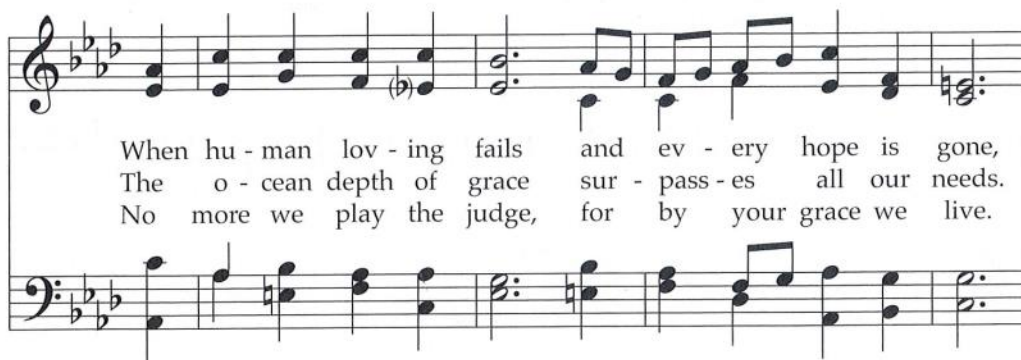
God, How Can We Forgive



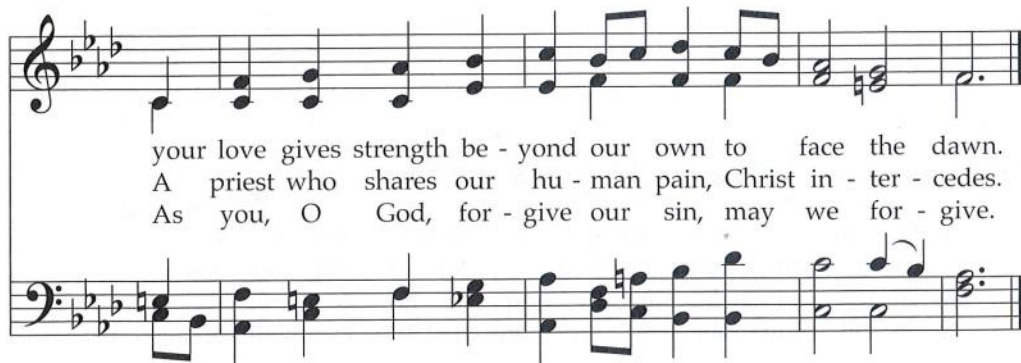
1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,
3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,



How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
when you, while know - ing all our 'past, for - give a - gain?



When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.



your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: Jesus Christ forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth!

All: Thanks be to God for this good news!

◇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: Through Christ, God invites us into a new kind of life marked by freedom and peace. 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.

Minute for Mission

Per Capita Giving

Keith Weber



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 27”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Austrian Hymn*, #598 “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”

***“When my trust is disappointed, faith confronted with disdain;
Friend and foe defeat my purpose, even then wilt Thou sustain.
Had I not with eyes believing seen the goodness of Thy face,
Never could I taste Thy pleasure, nor await Thy saving grace.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 27 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

Pew Bible, OT pg. 37 & 52

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“All Things New”

Elaine Hagenberg

~Chancel Choir

“Light after darkness, gain after loss, strength after weakness, crown after cross; sweet after bitter, hope after fears, home after wandering, praise after tears. Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, he is making all things new, springs of living water shall wash away each tear. He is making all things new. Sight after mystery, sun after rain, joy after sorrow, peace after pain; near

after distant, gleam after gloom, love after loneliness, life after tomb. Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, He is making all things new, springs of living water wash away each tear. He is making all things new.”

©2021 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Sermon

“There is God!”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“To our God Belong Mercies and Forgivenesses”

A.R. Gaul

~Brady DeVecchio

“To the Lord our God, to our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, to our God belong mercies; for like as a father pitieth his children, even so is the Lord merciful to them that fear Him.”

Public Domain

◇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 — Apostles’ Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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 #416

“God! When Human Bonds Are Broken”

Text: Fred Kaan ©1989 Hope Publishing Co.

◇Benediction

Postlude

“Prelude in C Major” BWV 545

J. S. Bach
Public Domain

1 Today's Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 20, Spill the Beans Resource Team, 2016, p. 11.

LITURGIST

Cassie Coates

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

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

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given anonymously with thanks and in celebration for our wonderful FPCRO Staff.

We welcome the recipient of our newly created **Organ Scholar Program, Mr. John Etsell**. John holds a D.M.A. from U of M in Collaborative Piano and will join us several Sundays a month to develop his organ playing skills and gain some church music experience. Welcome, John!

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Fundraiser—Mission: Possible

This fundraiser goes directly to support the summer high school mission trip and the middle school *Friends Reaching Out for God* (F.R.O.G.) week. The format is simple—in the lobby, see the board with envelopes showing different dollar amounts on them. You pick the one that's right for you, fill the envelope with a donation for that amount (cash, or check payable to S.T.A.G.E. Youth ministry), then turn in the envelope to the front desk. Thank you for your support!



SCAN ME

Rise Against Hunger—Today! From 12pm-2pm

Today is our 3rd annual Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event after worship. We'll have lunch in the Fireside Room and then proceed to Kirkman Fellowship Hall to pack 10,000 meals. This event has opportunities for all ages—kids through seniors!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

CROP Walk is Today at 2pm!

The 2024 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Hunger Walk is today. Join our team, whether it's a tradition for you to walk, or if it's your first time! Funds raised will help people in our community, and in places around the world, to overcome the challenges of hunger and food insecurity. Questions? Contact Scott Rieck.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation will take place immediately following worship on **Sunday, September 29** in the sanctuary. We'll receive the Annual Report, hear brief updates from the pastor and leaders, and vote on the pastor's terms of call for the coming year. Members are encouraged to attend and visitors are also welcome to be present. Copies of the Annual Report are available at the reception desk in the CE Lobby.

New Member Class Meets October 6, 13, and 20

Classes meet Sundays from **9-10am** and conclude October 20 with breakfast and a brief Session meeting to receive new members. We'll welcome you in worship at 10:30am that day! Childcare is provided upon request. Please RSVP to Pastor Emma at enickel@fpcro.org or call the church office.

Parents' Night Out

Are you looking for an opportunity to have an adult night out? On **Friday, October 4**, we are hosting a Parents' Night Out for our church families. Parents may drop off their children at the church between **6pm and 9pm**. Activities will include a movie and light snack. Nursery care will also be available for infants and toddlers. Please sign-up with Joelle Jarrait.

Great Lakes Pilgrimage

Participate the weekend of **October 11-13** at Echo Grove in Leonard, Michigan. The Pilgrimage offers presentations with table discussions, prayerful reflections, and inspirational music. Contact Norm Bayne for details: call 248-561-8378 or email bay9207@gmail.com.

Women's Group Meets October 14

The FPCRO Women's Group will kick-off meetings again this fall in the evening time! 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, October 14 at 7pm. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food. Let us know you're coming by October 7 at <https://tinyurl.com/tndej2w5>

Trunk or Treat: Decorate Your Car or Donate Candy

Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is happening Friday, October 25. To help make the event a success, we need **decorated cars, volunteers to staff the event, and candy donations**. To sign up to **volunteer or display your car** at the event, <https://tinyurl.com/2jd7tuyt>. In the CE lobby you will find a kiddie pool for the candy collection. Our goal is to fill the pool so that we have enough for over 200 children we expect to attend. **We would appreciate all candy donations by Sunday, October 13**. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may include "trunk or treat" on your donation.



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.