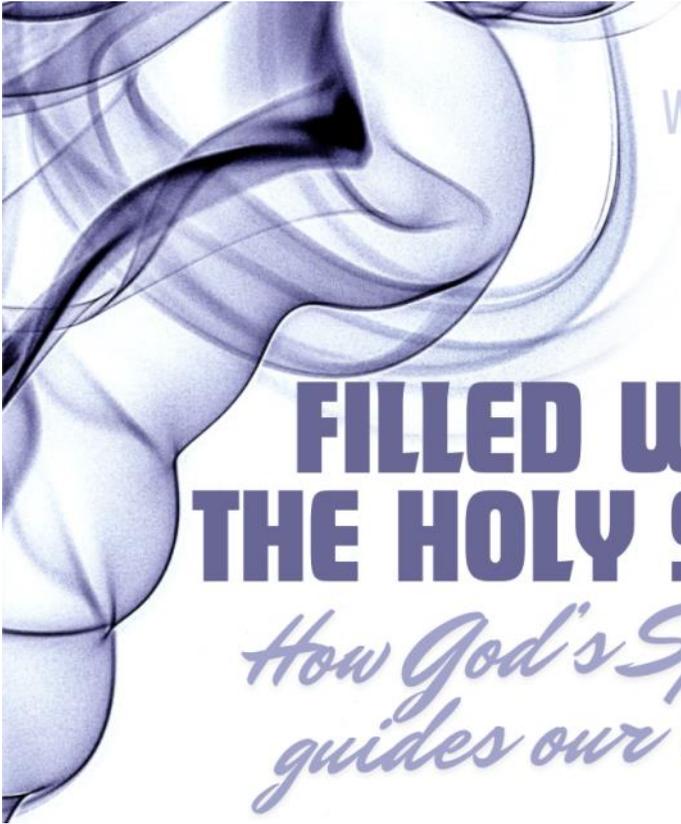


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

APRIL 28, 2024 | 9 & 10:30AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY  
WORSHIP SERIES  
APR 7-MAY 19



## FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

*How God's Spirit  
guides our lives*



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

“Allegro in A Major”

*Domenico Scarlatti*

10:30

“A Gentle Presence”

Kathleen Wissinger

~*Jubilate Bells*

©2022 Kathleen Wissinger (Jeffers Handbell Supply)

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: Come, people of faith, come join your hearts in worship.

**All: We hear the invitation, and we hunger to join in the feast.**

One: God is faithful and calls us into the loving presence of Jesus who is the Christ.

**All: We join together in worship uniting our hearts and voices in prayer and praise!**

#### ◊Hymn #595

“They’ll Know We Are Christians”

Text & Music: Peter Scholtes ©1966, 1967 F.E.L. Publications, 1991 Lorenz Publishing

### Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: The promise of Easter assures us that we, too, have been given new life.  
Let us repent of our sin before God and one another, certain of God’s grace.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

### Prayer of Confession

**All: Patient God, everlasting source of life, we bring our division and disconnection before you. You call us to unity, but we prefer our individual paths. You invite us into relationships, but we are afraid to be vulnerable and to grow. In each division we make of Christ’s body, the road back to unity is so much longer than the schism. Yet we trust in your grace to forgive us. We call on your Spirit to urge us to move toward one another and toward you. Together, may we find our unity restored.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Through your Holy Spirit, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

One: We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the one who loves us and laid down his life for us.

**All: This is the good news of the gospel: in 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: Christ's peace is a gift that passes all understanding. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ 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*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Open our eyes and awaken our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your message we may receive new life. Amen.**

### Scripture Reading

Acts 18:1-4

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 144*

### Psalm

"Psalm 133"

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Hamburg*, #261 "When I Survey"

*"How good when all the earth is one,  
And hearts embrace community;  
When strife will cease to separate,  
And love binds all in unity."*

Paraphrase of Psalm 133 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 173*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

(10:30am)

## Anthem

“The Spirit of the Lord”

Philip Stopford

~Chancel Choir

*“The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord, to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before the nations. The spirit of the Lord.”*

©2012 Birnamwood Publications (MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.)

## Sermon

“Uniting Spirit”

Rev. Emma Nickel



# THANKSGIVING

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## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Eric Thiman

~Audrey Frieberg

*“Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness feels my breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest. Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the memory find a sweeter sound than thy blest name, o Savior of mankind. O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, to those who fall how kind thou art, how good to those who seek! But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show; the love of Jesus, what it is none but his loved ones know. Jesu, our only joy be thou, and thou our prize wilt be; Jesu, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.”*

©1926, 1954 Novello & Co, Ltd.

### ◇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 A Brief Statement of Faith from the Presbyterian Church (USA)

One: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**All: In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.**

One: Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

**All: Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. 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**

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### **◇ Hymn #416**

“God! When Human Bonds Are Broken”

Text: Fred Kaan ©1989 Hope Publishing Co.

### **◇ Benediction**

**(10:30am)**

### **Postlude**

“Prelude in G Major”

*J.S. Bach*  
Public Domain

1 Portions of today's liturgy were adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 18, 2016.

### **LITURGIST**

Ryan Gleason

### **EPCRO 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 Clinthome, *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

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### Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given in memory of Mark Sutton from Marilyn Sutton and family.

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Join us for Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service today. Joseph Jackson is hosting in celebration of his birthday! Thanks to Karen Kline for helping coordinate.

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### Interested in Becoming a Member of FPCRO?

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership, a new member class is being planned for this spring. Contact Rev. Emma Nickel at [enickel@fpcro.org](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org) for more info.

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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 information.

**May 5: Regular Meeting** at FPCRO

**May 18: Flower Sale** at Greenfield Presbyterian Church

**June 9: End of Year Party** at FPCRO

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### Become a Better Listener—April 29 Presentation

On **Monday, April 29** from **7-8:30pm**, Pat Johnson, retired healthcare chaplain, spiritual director, and Commissioned Ruling Elder, will present **“Listening Sets the Bruised Heart Free,”** an in-depth look at listening to others, ourselves, and God. Sign up at the CE Lobby reception counter, or online at <https://tinyurl.com/328a4uja>. This is a broad spiritual view of what makes for a meaningful growth experience, and is based on her book, *Listening for Life*. Highlighting these three layers of listening, Pat will share stories of encounters with patients while a chaplain. Read her book in advance (listed on Amazon.com) or purchase it after the presentation (check/cash only). Learn more about Pat on her website [patj.substack.com](http://patj.substack.com).

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### Spring Grounds Clean-Up

This year's Spring Grounds Clean-Up is **Saturday, May 4, 9am-12pm**. Join us to ready the church's flower beds and grounds for the season. *Saturday, May 11 is the rain date.* Thank you!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### Women's Fellowship Group

The Women's Group will meet from **9:30-10:30am** on **Friday, May 10 and Friday, June 7** at Coffee and Bark in Berkley. Questions? Contact Amanda Curry.

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### Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Group will gather on **Monday, May 13 at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's in Berkley. Please join us for a return visit, or your first time, for some free-flowing conversation on a wide range of subjects. Questions? Contact Derek Helenberger or Matthew Nickel.

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### Volunteer at the *Buy Nothing* 'Free Sale' Event in Our Parking Lots

On **Saturday, May 18 from 9am-12pm** (rain date, June 15), FPCRO will host a group for a Buy Nothing Free Sale in our parking lot. Many RO residents are members of 'Buy Nothing' Facebook groups, where they take unwanted/unused items and gift them to others. This year, the group is hosting an in-person event which fosters **community connection and cares for creation** by keeping items out of landfills. To offer this community service, we need volunteers! Could you: Serve as a **parking lot attendant** on this day, directing people where to park and set-up? Serve as a **host at a booth** for our church offering greetings, giving directions to our church's bathrooms, water fountains, and pointing people to the event's coordinators for other assistance? Sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/3mpttsn2> or email Pastor Emma to let her know you want to participate.

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### Register Today! Scuba VBS is June 24-28, 9am-12pm

**Deadline to register is June 1, 2024.** Children receive a free gift with registration! <http://tinyurl.com/yc42r5m8>

Children 4 years old through 5th grade welcome.



### Volunteer for SCUBA Vacation Bible School!

This is a wonderful week of sharing God's word with our church children and the children of our community. We are looking for volunteers for a variety of areas. Not only do we need helpers during the event, but also helpers for planning and designing sets and props. Please visit our sign-up genius at <https://tinyurl.com/mr53bmrf> to join in on the fun!

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### Earla Smith Foundation Grant Applications

Applications for grants will be accepted until **April 30**. The committee will review the applications and send them to Session for approval in May. Earla Smith set up this grant to benefit FPCRO and the Troy School District for special programs and other activities of the church. If you have a proposal for how these funds could be used we encourage you to submit an application. **Visit <https://www.fpcro.org/forms-event-scheduling>** to download application form. Contact Kari for more information and/or assistance.

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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.*