

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

**NOVEMBER 12, 2023 | 9 & 10:30AM**

---

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



*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

---

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

## Prelude

9:00

“Andante”

Mozart

10:30

“O God, Thou Faithful God”

Johannes Brahms

Public Domain

## Welcome & Announcements

### ◊Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: Holy God, wholly faithful: holding us, feeding us, teaching us, leading us.

**All: Holy God, wholly merciful: tending us, mending us, lifting us, loving us.**

One: Come, let us gather.

**All: Come, let us worship the One who loves us with an everlasting love.**

### ◊Hymn (see insert)

“Your Faithfulness, O Lord Is Sure”

Text: ©1990 Joy F. Patterson

## Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: When we find ourselves fearing God's judgment, doubting God's joy in us, or fearing that God has turned away from us, let us be reminded of the promise of God's grace. Let us come in confession to the One who heals us and calls each of us by name. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

## Prayer of Confession

**All: Holy God, how is that we sometimes give up on you? How is it possible that we abandon you? Sometimes we treat you as if you are an enemy, instead of our very Maker. We break down our bonds with you and with others. Our hearts tell us not to do these things. But our love for you is not strong enough, all on its own, because we are human, not divine. And so, we ask for your grace to cover us, and for your mercy to mend our hearts and lives.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

**All: Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

One: Through Jesus Christ, God loves us. God forgives us. God lifts us to new life.

**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: We have been forgiven and so we can live in peace. Let us receive that gift and share it. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**(10:30am)**

## Time with the Children

*Afterward, children will be taken to Sunday School classes then return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.*

## Minute for Mission

“Sunburst Stewards Planned Giving”

Ken Noble



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

---

### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Loving God, cut through the fog of our lives with the power of your message. Let your Spirit speak wisdom to our minds and meaning to our hearts. Show us your ways as we turn to your holy scriptures. Amen.**

### Psalm

“Psalm 107”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *O Quant Qualia*, #528 “Here from All Nations”

**“Give thanks to God who all goodness has brought us;  
God, whose great love shall redeem us forever,  
From earth’s wide corners, God’s mercy has sought us;  
May God’s redemption depart from us never.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 107 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### Scripture Reading

Hosea 11:1-9

*Pew Bible, OT pg. 938*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**(10:30am)**

### Anthem

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

Bob Chilcott

~Chancel Choir

*“The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want. He makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, e’en for his own name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through death’s dark*

*vale, yet will I fear no ill: for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost will oil anoint, and my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me; And in my Father's heart always my dwelling place shall be."*

©2007 & 2020 Oxford University Press

## Sermon

"Compassion Wins Out"

Rev. Emma Nickel



# THANKSGIVING

---

## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

"Be Thou Faithful unto Death" (St. Paul)

Felix Mendelssohn

~Brady DeVecchio

*"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give to thee a crown of life. Be not afraid, my help is nigh."*

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

(10:30am)

### ***Reception of New Members***

### Presentation

#### ◇Profession of Faith

One: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**All: I do.**

One: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

**All: I do.**

One: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**All: I will, with God's help.**

#### ◇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.**

## Questions

## Introductions

## Prayer

## Welcome

One: Let us welcome these new friends among us as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

**All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

## 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 (see insert) "Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us"

*This text was inspired by how the prophet Hosea describes the parental nature of God's relationship with Israel (Hosea 11:1-19). The last stanza echoes Christ's teachings about love of neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40/Mark 12:29-31) and care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:31-46).*

Text: ©1986 Daniel Bechtel; Music: William Rowan ©1993 Selah Publishing Co.

### ◇ Benediction

**(10:30am)**

### Postlude

**"Tocatta in e minor"**

*Johann Pachelbel*  
Public Domain

1 Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 16, 2015.



*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.*

## **LITURGIST**

Rev. Neeta Nichols

## **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 DelVecchio, *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 by Tere & Mark Ryan and their sons in memory of, and in honor of, all U.S. military veterans. A sincere 'Thank You' for your service.

---

### **The Presby Baking Showcase**

**Today, November 12**, the Generosity and Resources Committee is hosting **The Presby Baking Showcase**. Our church family is invited to come to Kirkman Fellowship Hall after the 10:30am service to enjoy sampling what our bakers have provided. Fellowship and storytelling over baked treats will be a treat for us all.

---

### **Soup and Salad Dinner Fundraiser**

Join S.T.A.G.E. **tonight, November 12 at 6 pm** at Cana Lutheran Church for a Soup and Salad dinner.

Enjoy live entertainment, delicious soup, and fun for the entire family! Proceeds support S.T.A.G.E.'s

summer mission work for our middle and high schoolers! Adults \$12, kids ages 3-10 \$6, kids 2 and under are free! Purchase tickets here: <https://forms.gle/2sicuHMhVmb2DzkJA>

---

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

We had a great turnout for FPCRO's new men's fellowship group last month. Many topics were covered from faith journeys, to job changes, to presidential history. Thanks to those who came out to check it out! We are gathering again on **Monday, November 13 at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's in Berkley. For more information, please contact Matthew Nickel or Derek Helenberger. See you on November 13!

---

### **Service of Healing and Wholeness**

As the light dims and seasons change, many find it to be a time of sadness and struggle. On

**Wednesday, November 15 at 7pm** our Stephen Ministers will lead a Service of Healing and Wholeness. We invite you to come as we seek God's comfort and healing during these times.

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

---

### Upcoming S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Meetings

**Nov 12**, Soup & Salad Fundraiser at Cana Lutheran, 6pm; **Nov 19** at 4:30pm at First Pres. B'ham; **Dec 3** at 4:30pm at FPCRO; **Dec 17** at 4:30pm at Cana Lutheran.

---

### Opportunity to Usher on Sunday Mornings

The Worship and Nurture Committee is looking for ushers. Simply arrive 20-25 minutes ahead of the 10:30am service to greet folks and hand out bulletins. After worship, retrieve the completed pew rack Friendship pad forms. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Gail Meengs at [filmings6464@yahoo.com](mailto:filmings6464@yahoo.com), or call 586-713-9629

---

### Poinsettia Dedications

It's time for poinsettia dedications! Again this year plants are \$14. Please fill out an order form and turn it in with a check payable to First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. Leave your check and order form in the basket at the reception desk. Contact Chris Klein (248-990-8586) if you have questions. Orders are due by **December 3**.

---

### Salvation Army Angel Tree Program

As the busy holiday season arrives, we are grateful for our blessings and are aware of the great need in our community for those families who are struggling. The Salvation Army has asked for our help to make Christmas brighter for children in our area who might not receive gifts. This year, the Salvation Army invites us to purchase new, unwrapped toys for a child of any age. Lists with gift ideas are available in the church lobby. **Bring UNWRAPPED gifts to the church by Tuesday, December 5**. Or use the QR code on the list to scan and have your gift sent directly to the Salvation Army.

---

### Returning Outside Group Rental

Sportsman's Dog Training Club is hosting an American Kennel Club Scent Work Trial here **November 17-19**. Enter the building through the Chapel or Hendrie doors. The entire building is being used except the worship wing starting at the reception desk. The sanctuary, chapel, and nursery will be open. Rest rooms will be open: please use the ones in the CE Lobby, if possible. The dogs are being timed so don't interact with them in any way.

---

### Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting following the 10:30am service on **Sunday, November 26** to consider an offer to purchase the Northwest/Hendrie parking lot. Members are encouraged to attend.

The Session has received an offer to purchase the Northwest/Hendrie parking lot. The congregation authorized listing the lot for sale on April 10, 2022, but it must also approve an offer to purchase before it can be accepted. **Members of the congregation are invited to a Zoom meeting on Thursday, November 16 at 7pm** to hear more details about this matter and to ask questions of the Task Force who has been shepherding this process. To login to the meeting on your device, click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88527207229>. To phone in for audio only, dial +1 312 626 6799.

---

*S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) is a collaborative youth ministry for middle-and high-school youth. Meetings are on select Sundays at one of our collaborating churches. Scan the QR code for more information.*

