

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

FEBRUARY 9, 2025 | 10:30AM

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany



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. Third graders and older are encouraged to sit with their family in the pews.
- 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



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

“Andante con Moto” (Sonata No. V)

Felix Mendelssohn
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Welcome & Announcements

◊ **Call to Worship**¹

One: Who is this God whom we have come to worship?

All: God is the creator of all.

One: The creator of birds and trees, wind and sea.

All: God is the creator of all things seen and unseen.

One: Then let us worship the God of creation,

All: the God of all things great and small.

◊ **Response Hymn #30**

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

refrain only

*“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.”*

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◊ **Prayer of the Day**

All: O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Everything we see reminds us of your power and glory. You made us to love you and to take care of your creation. We praise you for all your gifts and for helping us take care of your world. Thank you for your creativity and your love. Amen.

◊ **Hymn #29**

“God of the Sparrow”

Text: ©1983 Jaroslav Vajda; Music: Carl Schalk ©1983 GIA Publications

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Trusting in the promise of grace, let us pour out our hearts before God. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: God of all creation, you loved us into being, yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation. Forgive our greedy grasping and replace it with careful stewardship. Caring God, how quickly we forget your deep and

abiding care for us, your people. Even as so many things make us anxious, remind us that worrying is not a solution to the woes of our world. Help us to put our energy into striving for your kingdom: for a world made right by your grace and love.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In the name of Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Our world, broken and scarred, still belongs to God. God holds it together with hope!

All: We find our hope in the grace of Christ! Through his love, we are forgiven and freed! 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: The wolf shall lie with the lamb; the leopard shall live with the kid. These are the promises of peace in the Kingdom of God. Through Christ, we glimpse that peace, even now. 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 and will return to the sanctuary at the end of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination²

All: Lord God, at the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the waters. So send your Spirit to us now to open our hearts and minds to receive the re-creating power of your Word. Through Christ, we pray, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 46”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Lauda Anima*, #82 “Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven”

***“God, our strength and mighty fortress, God, our refuge in distress;
God, whose promise is deliv’rance, God, whose law is righteousness;
Though the earth with fear may tremble, none can shake Thy faithfulness.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 46 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Luke 12:22-34

Pew Bible, NT pg. 76

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Lord, I Trust Thee”

G. F. Handel

~Chancel Choir

“Lord, I trust thee, I adore thee. Ah! Thou friend of man, restore me! On thy loving grace relying, for the bread of life I’m sighing. Quench my thirst and let my hunger cease, fill my heart with joy and endless peace. When the breath of life has left me, may my soul be blended with thee.”

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Sermon

“Not to Worry”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

arr. Mark Hayes

~Audrey Frieberg

*“Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come? Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he. His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. **Refrain: I sing because I’m happy. I sing because I’m free. For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.** Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise, when songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies, I draw the closer to Him; from care He sets me free. His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me. **Refrain.** His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He’s protecting, and I know that He’s loving, and I know He watches me.”*

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◇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^s

Left: We believe in God above us, creator of all things, sustainer of all life.

Right: *We believe in Christ beside us, companion and friend, redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.*

Left: We believe in the Holy Spirit deep within us and all around us, advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.

Right: We believe in God's promise of a resurrection world where all things are restored, and all creation fits together in vibrant harmony.

All: We believe in God above, beside, and within; God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in three; the one in whom we live and move and have our being. 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 #429

“If You Will Trust in God to Guide You”

Text vs. 2 ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

◇ Benediction

Postlude

“If You Will Trust in God to Guide You”

Johann Ludwig Krebs
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- 1 Call to Worship from *Belonging to God: Catechism Resources for Worship*. ©2003, Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Theology and Worship. Used with permission of Westminster John Knox Press.
- 2 From *The Worship Sourcebook*.
- 3 Adapted from the Lenten series *Journey into Wholeness* by Christine Sine. Published in 2009 by Mustard Seed Associates.

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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.

LITURGIST

Krispen Carroll

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 Clinthome, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Chris & Pete Klein in memory of our parents: Walter and Sally Klein, Albert and Elizabeth Steger

This morning after worship the Board of Deacons are hosting Fellowship Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall.

Sub Sandwich—Pick Your Order Up Today!

If you have ordered sub sandwiches from the S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry, you may pick them up after worship in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Animal Cookies for Coffee Hour next Sunday

If you took home an animal cookie cutter to help with our All Creatures Great and Small Coffee Hour, we are grateful! Please bring your batch of cookies to the kitchen *before* the start of worship next Sunday, February 16. If you'd like to drop them off during the week during office hours, we can keep them fresh until Sunday morning. The Generosity and Resources Committee thanks you for your help in sharing hospitality with the congregation!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Upcoming February S.T.A.G.E. Dates

Fleece & Thank You Service Project at FPCRO **February 23**. S.T.A.G.E. (*Somewhere To Ask God Everything*) is a collaborative youth group which strives to build lifelong relationships, impact the communities we live in, and learn about and share the love of Christ! Join our newsletter by emailing stageyouth@gmail.com for all the details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are open to all Middle and High School Students (6th-12th grade)

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



Congregational Lenten Devotional—Entries Due Today!

If you signed up to submit an entry for our Congregational Lenten Devotional, remember to submit it to Pastor Emma by email at enickel@fpcro.org. Thank you for sharing your experiences with the congregation!

Souper Bowl of Caring

During the month of February, our congregation is participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring! You are invited to bring a non-perishable item for our Little Free Pantry. Cans with pull-tabs are useful. Fruit cups and cereal bars are also great. (Please, no glass containers.) Since its installment, the Little Free Pantry at FPCRO has been a truly helpful source for people in our neighborhood. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you may do so by labeling it “Souper Bowl of Caring” or “Little Free Pantry.”

Blanket-tying Mission Event on February 23

After worship on **February 23**, join the Mission in Service Committee to tie Fleece & Thank You Blankets at Coffee Hour. The blankets are sent to children who are hospitalized to offer warmth and comfort. Plan to welcome the S.T.A.G.E. youth who will be joining us for the event.
