

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

OCTOBER 27, 2024 | 10:30AM

Twenty-Third 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:

- 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

“Song of Assurance”

Arnold B. Sherman

~Jubilate Bells

©2009 Choristers Guild

Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship

One: As we enter this time of community,
As we enter this time of worship,
God sees us and proclaims,

All: “You are my Beloved.” This love holds us.

One: As we enter this time of welcome,
As we enter this time of kinship,
We see one another and proclaim,

All: “We are part of the Beloved Community.” This love calls us.

One: As we enter this time of speaking,
As we enter this time of feasting,
We see our world and proclaim,

All: “You are our Beloved.” This love transforms us.

One: May we see and wonder.

All: May we speak and marvel.

One: Let us worship the God who calls us together.

◊Hymn (next page over) “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

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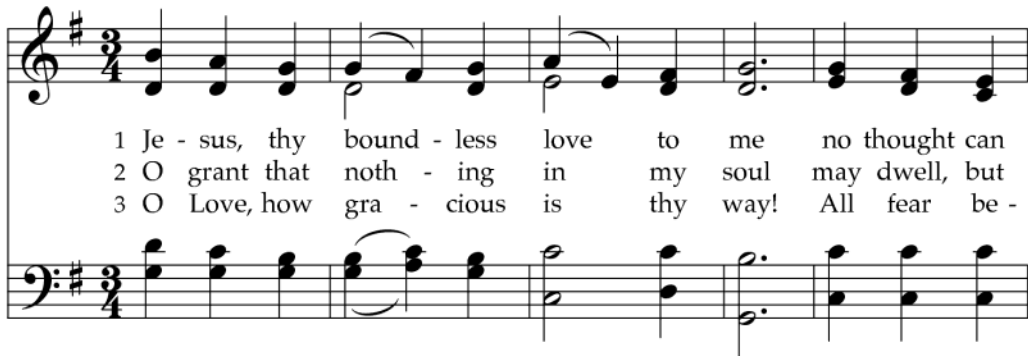
Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: In hope, we trust the everlasting mercy of God. In Jesus Christ, we proclaim that we belong to a forgiving God. In the Spirit, we experience a reconciling God. Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me



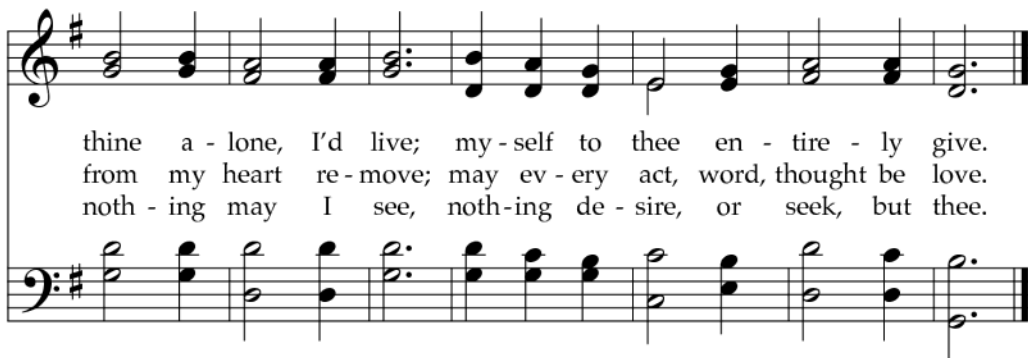
1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can
2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but
3 O Love, how gra - cious is thy way! All fear be -



reach, no tongue de - clare; O knit my thank - ful heart to
thy pure love a - lone; O may thy love pos - sess me
fore thy pres - ence flies; care, an - guish, sor - row melt a -



thee, and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly,
whole, my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness
way wher - e'er thy heal - ing beams a - rise. O Je - sus,



thine a - lone, I'd live; my - self to thee en - tire - ly give.
from my heart re - move; may ev - ery act, word, thought be love.
noth - ing may I see, noth - ing de - sire, or seek, but thee.

Prayer of Confession

All: God of Love, in the midst of a world that so often belittles and dehumanizes, you see us, and you delight in who we are. You call us to a love as full and transformative as your own. Help us see our neighbors in light of love. Help us see ourselves in light of love. We know that we do not always give and receive this love in its fullness. At times, we view people through labels we choose to assign, or we pass by our neighbors, barely noticing them as they are lonely or in crisis. At other times, we disregard ourselves, forgetting that we have sacred worth and value, and we keep ourselves busy to deflect others from seeing us in need or in vulnerability. Please forgive us and call us again, that we may give and receive the fullness of your love—the very love that forms us and makes all things new. Amen.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Jesus Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. In this great love, we are God's forgiven and freed people.

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: Filled with the Spirit of Love, we exchange signs of 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 and will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.

Minute for Mission

Little Free Pantry

Karen Thomas



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: God of Love, You have given us many gifts. We thank you for the gifts of these sacred texts, filled with stories that invite us more deeply into who you are and how you call us. We pray that you would center us now, that we might receive—not only words alone, but also, meaning, and calling, and healing, and belonging. We pray in your name, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 90”

James Testa

Please join in singing the refrain upon a cue from the cantor



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy.

“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Return, O Lord, how long; have pity on your servants!”

Refrain

“Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. Make us glad for the days when you afflicted us, for the years when we saw evil.”

Refrain

“Let your work be seen by your servants, and your glory by their children; and may the gracious care of the Lord our God be ours; prosper the work of our hands for us!”

Refrain

Text: ©1970, 1997, 1998 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington D.C.; Music: ©2020 James Testa

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Pew Bible, NT pg. 165

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

arr. Robert G. Farrell

~Chancel Choir

“Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise. Un-resting, un-hasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, you rule day and night; your justice like mountains high soaring above your clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love. Life-giving

Creator, of both great and small; of all life the maker, the true life of all; we blossom, then wither, as leaves on a tree, but you love forever, who is and will be. Great father of glory, pure Father of light, your angels adoring, all veiling their sight, we, too, God invisible, offer our praise; O light inaccessible, Ancient of Days!"

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Sermon

"The God Between Us"

Rev. Renee Roederer



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

arr. Paul Jones

~Brady DeVecchio

"O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be. O Joy that seeketh me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be! O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be."

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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 — 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** (*page opposite*)

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

Public Domain

◇ **Benediction**

Postlude

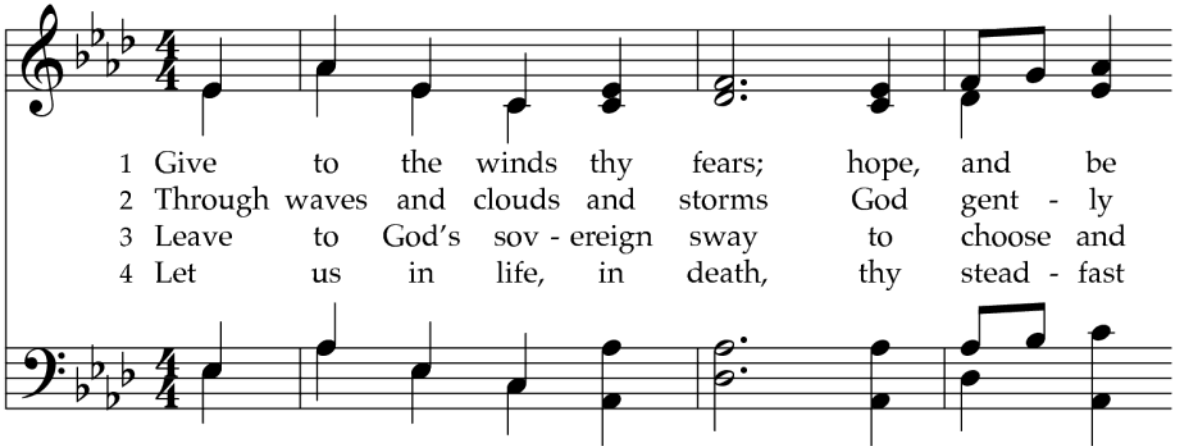
“Postlude on Nicaea”

Christopher Tambling

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Rev. Renee Roederer is a PC(USA) minister who lives in Ann Arbor. She is the Senior Director of Programs and Community Care at the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. Renee enjoys choral singing, hiking, photography, traveling, and she's an avid writer. One of her greatest joys in life is the large, chosen family she has built over time, with whom she enjoys keeping in touch, laughing hard, and reflecting on life.

Give to the Winds Thy Fears



1 Give to the winds thy fears; hope, and be
2 Through waves and clouds and storms God gent - ly
3 Leave to God's sov - ereign sway to choose and
4 Let us in life, in death, thy stead - fast



un - dis - mayed. God hears thy sighs and
clears the way. Wait pa - tient - ly; so
to com - mand. So shalt thou, won - dering,
truth de - clare, and pub - lish with our



counts thy tears; God shall lift up thy head.
shall this night soon end in joy - ous day.
own God's way, how wise, how strong God's hand!
fi - nal breath thy love and guard - ian care.

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*

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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.



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

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of Neeta Nichols by her family.

Join us for Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall following the worship service. The Sunday morning Bible Study Group is hosting.

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. 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!

Women's Wellness Circle: Sharing Ideas & Experiences

Wednesdays at 7pm, thru November 20, in the Fireside Room

The responsibilities of caregiving for family, friends, and communities, alongside demanding careers or volunteering, often take a toll on women's wellness. When we take time to gather, we can share tools and resources with one another, accept that we are in this together, support one another, and continue doing these tasks while protecting our wellness. Each week we'll share and discuss a scheduled topic, but also check in with one another. Facilitated by Heather Gleason. Sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3xjh5t>

Snack Pax Bags

We are preparing to pack 400 Snack Pax bags after worship **next Sunday, November 3**. Please return any remaining decorated bags. All ages are invited to join us to pack the bags.

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, November 4**. 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.

Fall Grounds Clean-Up

The House and Grounds Committee invites you to join us on **Saturday, November 9, from 9am- 12noon** for the annual Fall Grounds Clean-Up. All are welcome! Bring work gloves and gardening gear as we rake leaves and prepare the church grounds for the coming winter. *Rain date: after worship on Sunday, November 10.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Adventure in Worship for Kids and Families

Plan to join us for our Adventure in Worship event on **Sunday, November 10 from 9-10:15am**. Children of all ages are invited to attend with their grown-ups! There will be 6 opportunities to learn about worship including baptism, communion, and organ music. Doughnuts and juice will be offered as we get started! Childcare for infants and toddlers available upon request, contact Joelle Jarrait.

Women's Fellowship Group Meets November 11

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, November 11 at 7pm**. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food. Let us know you're coming by November 4 at <https://tinyurl.com/muw55tnw>

Serve at Forgotten Harvest

Join us for a day of volunteering at Forgotten Harvest in Oak Park **from 1-4pm on Saturday, November 16**. Activities may include sorting and repacking food, breaking down boxes, or other needs. We are looking for 35 volunteers and will serve alongside S.T.A.G.E. Youth group students and members of Drayton Presbyterian. Use this link to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/2upuutjw>. Then look for an email to register with Forgotten Harvest.

Mammograms Save Lives

The Anthony L. Soave Family Mobile Mammography Screening Center will be at FPCRO on **Monday, November 18 from 9am to 4pm**. Advance registration is required, so please call 248-577-0800 to reserve your spot. This mobile mammography screening center serves all women regardless of health insurance status. Mammography is usually a covered benefit within a 12-month period. Please bring a photo ID and your insurance card (if applicable). All mammography images are read by board certified radiologists. You must be 40 years or older without prior breast condition. For more information call 568-381-1603 or visit ascension.org/michigan.

Little Free Pantry

FPCRO's Little Free Pantry serves neighbors who may be unhoused, as well as those who may be running short on funds for food. Non-perishable items including stews, soups, canned proteins, granola bars, and individually packed cereals may be dropped off during church office hours, or placed directly in the pantry. For cash or check donations, please indicate it is for the "Little Free Pantry."
