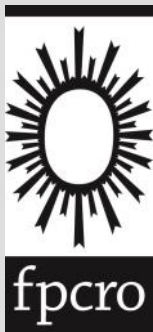


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

JANUARY 7, 2024 | 9 & 10:30AM

Baptism of the Lord Sunday



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



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

9:00

“Come Holy Spirit”

Gaither/Bock

10:30

“To Jordan Came Our Lord, the Christ”

Dietrich Buxtehude

Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship

One: The prophet promised a messenger shouting in the desert: “Get the road ready for the Lord.”

All: Jesus, baptized in the Jordan, is getting ready for his task. He needs a team and so the call goes out.

One: Today, here in this place, are we ready for the Lord? As one year ends and a new year approaches, are we ready to answer that same call?

All: Come gather in readiness, come gather in praise, come let us worship.

◊ Hymn #241

“When Jesus Came to Jordan”

Text: Fred Pratt Green ©1980 Hope Publishing; Music: Public Domain

Call to Confession¹

One: At the water’s edge, we are gathered to confess and repent. At the font, our sins are lifted up to our merciful God. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: God of our baptism, we come to that same river where you were baptized, and we stand next to you, waiting to be washed. But we confess that we often wish to do so without going through the messiness of repentance. We want your grace, but act as we did *before* receiving it. Help us to truly be baptized by your Good News, by hearing it, touching it, tasting it, and then being changed by it.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: We pray in your name,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: At the water's edge, our fears are relieved and our hopes restored. We have turned toward God, who first turned to us.

All: 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: God offers hope and peace through the gift of forgiveness. Those are gifts meant to be shared. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(10:30am)

Time with the Children



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Let your Holy Spirit descend on us, O God, and speak to us as your beloved children. Help us to hear and believe the good news of your word made flesh. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 29”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Austrian Hymn*, #589 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

***“All on earth and all in heaven, raise to God a song on high;
Strength unmeasured, love unbounded, God alone we glorify.***

At God’s voice the clouds assemble, thunder roars and torrents fall;

Earth shall quake before God’s presence, mountains tremble at God’s call.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 29 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:1-20

Pew Bible, NT pg. 35

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“Come to the Water”

Foley/Schrader

~Chancel Choir

“O let all who thirst, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord; without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord? And let

all who seek, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord.: without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord? And let all who toil, let them come to the water. And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord: all who labor without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord? And let all the poor, let them come to the water. Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord: bring the children without might. Easy the load and light: come to the Lord. Come to the water; come to the Lord.”

©1978 and this arr. 2000 John Foley and New Dawn Music (admin. Hope Publishing)

Sermon

“Beginning With the End in Mind”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“My Son, the Beloved”

David Blackwell

~Bryan Clinthorne

“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John on the Jordan, and as he came out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased. My Son, the Beloved.”

©2017 Birnamwood Publications (admin. MorningStar Music Publishers)

◇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

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer²

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

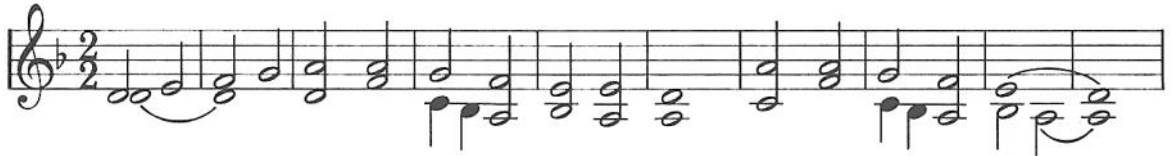
All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Eternal and gracious God...we joyfully praise your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na



in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: We praise you for the life you share with us in Jesus Christ...
Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

One: Holy Spirit...we join our voices once again to pray the words you taught us, saying:

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

Words of Institution

Communion of the People and Receiving Star Words

Everyone is welcome to receive communion! You are welcome at God's table here regardless of your denomination or affiliation.

*At 10:30am, you are invited to come forward to the servers at the front of the church to receive the bread and cup. Please open your hands and the server will place the bread into them. Eat the bread when you receive it. A gluten free bread option is available in the center of the plate; please let the server know and you're invited to take the GF bread from the plate yourself. Take a cup and drink from it, then place the cup in the trashcan nearby. **Then, take a star from the basket on the way back to your seat.** If you prefer to be served in the pew, please remain there and a server will come to you.*

Prayer After Communion

All: Christ our Lord, in you, we who are many become one. In the sharing of the cup and loaf, and the remembering of our baptism, strengthen our relationships with you and one another. Lead us as your people so that we may join you in your good work. Let us be faithful to your call. Amen.



SENDING

◇ Hymn (*see insert*)

“God Is Calling through the Whisper”

Text: Mary Louise Bringle ©2006 GIA Publications;

Music: Polish Carol; harm. Wilbur Lee ©1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

◇ Benediction

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Glory to God in the Highest”

Peruvian Carol arr. Emily Porter

©2001 Augsburg Publishing

1 By Stephen Fearing, “Confession, Baptism of the Lord, January 10, 2016,” stephenmfearing.com

2 Communion liturgy adapted from Michelle Henrichs, *Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of Invitation to Celebration and Experience the Love of God* (Life in the Labyrinth LLC, 2020), 23-26.

LITURGIST

Beth Egan De Guise



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.

God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Jim & Louise Gotch in memory of their parents, Stanley & Ethel Cutshall, and James & Irma Gotch.

Taking Down the Greens

Join us for a few minutes after the 10:30am service **today, Sunday, January 7** to take down the Christmas greens in the sanctuary and around the church.

S.T.A.G.E. Youth-led Worship Service Jan 7

Tonight, Sunday, January 7 at 5pm, the S.T.A.G.E. youth-led worship service will be held at **First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham** (1669 W Maple Rd). The **congregation is invited**. See you there! Middle and high schoolers and their friends are invited to join our collaborative Youth Ministry. Questions? Contact Youth Director, Jessica Gibbs, at stageyouth@gmail.com.

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.



Men's Fellowship Group

This month the Men's Fellowship Group will gather on the **third** Monday of the month, **January 15 at 7:30 pm** at Bagger Dave's in Berkley (2972 Coolidge Hwy.) so we do not conflict with the college football national championship game taking place on our usual second Monday night.

Digging into Mark, a Bible Study

Starting **Wednesday, January 17 at 7pm**, join Pastor Neeta for a four-week Bible Study as we move into the Gospel of Mark in the new year during worship. The Narrative Lectionary scripture readings invite us to dig deeper into the story of Jesus in this gospel, which is the earliest and shortest of the four gospel accounts.

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 DeVecchio, *tenor*
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.*