

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 | 9 & 10:30AM

Twenty-Fifth 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



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

Today is a Family Sunday when children will be present in worship. Children of any age are always welcome in the sanctuary throughout our service. For young children, the Prayground in the back of the sanctuary is open and our nursery is also available for those who prefer childcare for infants and toddlers.

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

Prelude

9:00

“There Is a Redeemer”

Green arr. Bock

10:30

“Grazioso”

Arnold Sherman

~Jubilate Bells

©2000 Red River Music (A division of Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.)

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: The time is surely coming when our love for one another and all of God's children will increase.

All: We lean into that time with hope and joy.

One: The day is surely coming when God will strengthen our hearts with humility and holiness.

All: We anticipate that day as we reach out to serve all of those in need.

One: The days are surely coming when we will walk the paths of faithfulness and steadfast love.

All: We worship and live with the trust that all of God's promises will be fulfilled.

◊ Hymn (*see insert*)

“The Days are Surely Coming”

Text: David Gambrell ©2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: We know that we have not lived as God hopes. But however fragmented we become, God longs to hold us together in grace and peace. Let us come with our prayers of confession to the One who prepares the way for our words. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession¹

All: In these moments, Lord, we bring to you all the ways we have not lived as your people: we stand by watching while those in need struggle to survive; we cast our lots with those who worship power and success; we offer platitudes rather than words of grace to those who care for us; we ignore your words, which call us to a different lifestyle. Forgive us, God of Mercy. Speak to us through Jesus Christ, our King and our Savior, who bears words filled with your tender mercy and gracious hope.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In the name of Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish ways, not our rebellion. God remembers *us*—and redeems us!

All: God prepares the way for us: the way to grace, to hope, to new life. Joyfully, we offer our thanks 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

Today is a Family Sunday. Children will worship with their families in the pews or in the Prayground. At the end of worship, children who participate in music time will be taken to Sunburst Singers in the Chapel.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination²

All: God of our salvation, there is wisdom, peace, and joy for those who keep your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 25”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Anne*, #84 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

***“The Lord is goodness, truth, and love, God’s path the saints have trod;
And children of the covenant still walk beside their God.
Be mindful of Thy mercy, Lord, Thy love from ages past;
Forgive the weakness of my youth and bring me home at last.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 25 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:10-11; 14-18

Pew Bible, OT pg. 820

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

arr. Ferguson

~Chancel Choir

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load. To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever! For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away! Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him! Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain! Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign! For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.”

©1987 Augsburg Publishing House

Sermon

“Imagining”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

9:00

“Stir Up Thy Power, O Lord”

James Biery

~Olivia Donnel

“Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us, O Lord, and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.”

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10:30

~Jenn Muse, flute

“Ornament of Grace”

Bernard Wayne Sanders

©2008 Concordia Publishing House

◇ **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)

Ordination and Installation of Deacon

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Constitutional Questions

Questions to the Congregation

Prayer of Ordination and Laying on of Hands

Declaration of Ordination and Installation and Charge

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 #548**

“Come, Great God, of All the Ages”

Text: Mary Jackson Cathey ©1990 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Cyril Taylor ©1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing

◇ **Benediction**

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Postlude on *The Days are Surely Coming*”

Aaron David Miller
©2005 Augsburg Fortress

1 Adapted from Thom Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>.

2 *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Liturgist for Year C, Vol 1*, Ed. Kimberly Bracken Long (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2012), 2.

LITURGIST

Lon Kuehn

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Scott, Candace and Bogdan Rieck in loving memory of Karl Rieck.

Hanging of the Greens

After worship **today, meet in the parlor to help** and help with the annual Hanging of the Greens. Many hands make light work!

Returning Outside Group Rental

Sportsman's Dog Training Club is hosting an American Kennel Club Scent Work Trial **today**. The entire building is being used except the worship wing, starting at the reception desk—the sanctuary, chapel, and nursery are open. Rest rooms are 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.

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

November 19 at 4:30pm at First Presbyterian church of Birmingham; **December 3** at 4:30pm at FPCRO; **December 17** at 4:30pm at Cana Lutheran.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Advent Begins November 26

Our celebration of Advent begins next Sunday. The official liturgical calendar for 2023 offers a very compressed Advent, with both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve happening on December 24. Therefore, the FPCRO Session has agreed to begin our Advent celebration on November 26. This will allow us a full four weeks to prepare for Christ's birth. On Christmas Eve, the 10:30am service will include a short pageant celebrating the nativity, as well as baptisms. The 7pm Christmas Eve service will be a traditional one with carols and candlelight.

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.

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**, or call 586-713-9629

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.



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.