

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MAY 18, 2025 | 10:30AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter



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

~*Jubilate Bells*

“Jubilant Celebration”

Joel Raney

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Welcome & Announcements

♦Call to Worship

One: What can prevent us from worshipping God together?

All: Bad days and bad news cannot stand in our way.

One: Busyness and the crush of life will not prevent us.

All: The assumption that we can do it on our own will not be our excuse.

One: Because we love God and God loves us, our praise bursts forth!

All: There is nothing that will stand between us and God. We worship with joy in song and prayer!

♦Hymn #667

“God Has Spoken by the Prophets”

Text: George Briggs ©1953, Ren. 1981 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

Call to Confession and *Kyrie Eleison*

One: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy and loving God, we don't always understand your ways. We need to be honest about what confuses us and where we need help to see clearly. Even when we are trying hard to follow you, we still make mistakes. Forgive us for those times we fail spectacularly and end up letting you down. Pick us up from those moments, teach us again what it means to live in you with this community of believers. Pick us up, dust us off, and set us back on the right track.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In Jesus' name, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news! As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun. God's grace is poured out upon us day by day. May we live as ones who have been raised 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: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. 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. Those attending Sunburst Singers will be taken there following worship. Others will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination¹

All: Testify to us, O God, by the voice of your Spirit. Put your message in our hearts, write your word in our minds, and show your will in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 25”

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

“To Thee, O Lord, I lift my soul, in Thee, O Lord, I trust;

Let vanity be put to shame, and languish in the dust.

Make me to know Thy paths, O God, and lead me in Thy way;

To learn Thy saving truth my heart shall meditate each day.”

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

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-39

Pew Bible, NT pg. 131

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

Richard DeLong

~Chancel Choir

“Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will to do and to endure. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, until this earthly part of me glows with the fire divine. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of this eternity.”

©1995 E.C. Schirmer Music Co, Inc. (ECS Publishing)

Sermon

“Eager Faith”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“O Lord Most Holy”

César Franck

~Brady DeIVecchio

“O Lord most holy, O Lord most mighty, O loving Father, Thee would we be praising alway. Help us to know Thee, know Thee and love Thee; Father, grant us Thy truth and grace, Father, guide us and defend us. Rule Thou our willful hearts, keep Thine our wandering thoughts; in all our sorrows, let us find our rest in Thee; and in temptation’s hour, save through Thy mighty power, Thy aid O send us; hear us in mercy. Show us Thy favor, so shall we live, and sing praise to Thee.”

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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 Dedication²

◊**Litany**—from the Galla people of Ethiopia in *Prayers Encircling the World: An International Anthology*³

One: O God, you have prepared in peace the path I must follow today.

All: Help me to walk straight on that path.

One: If I speak, remove lies from lips.

All: If I am hungry, take away from me all complaint.

One: If I have plenty, destroy pride in me.

All: May I go through the day calling on you, you, O Lord, who know no other Lord. 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 (next page)

“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”

Text: William Jabusch ©1966, 1982 W. Jabusch (Published by OCP)

Music: Hasidic melody; arr. Evangelical Lutheran Worship 2006, ©2006 Augsburg Fortress

◊Benediction

Postlude

“Fantasia in F Major”

Johann Ludwig Krebs

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Open Your Ears, O Faithful People



1 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple; o - pen your
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have



ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O
ears, now let them hear; they who would learn the



roy - al priest - hood; God has come to you.
way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!

- 1 Prayer for Illumination from the Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Common Worship*, 2018.
- 2 Prayer of Dedication from *Spill the Beans*, Issue 22, 2017, p.97.
- 3 Prayers Encircling the World: An International Anthology (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998), 134.

LITURGIST

Bart Huthwaite

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director: Jessica Gibbs

Nursery Care Worker: Abby Pochron

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Julie Matthews in loving memory of her mother's birthday.

Mission in Service Hands-On Event Today!

After worship this morning, please join us in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. As part of our support of the Here to Help Foundation, we will assemble hygiene kits for them to give to their clients.

Printed Sermon

Most Sunday's, a printed sermon is available in the Narthex. The sermon is also posted on the church website. Visit <https://www.fpcro.org/home-worship-ressources> to download a PDF of the sermon.

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

End of Year Celebration is **June 8** at 5:30pm at FPCRO in the Fireside Room.

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! Email stageyouth@gmail.com to join our newsletter for details on our meetings, 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



ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Sunday Serenade

On the afternoon of **Sunday, June 8 at 2pm**, our talented section leaders/soloists Bryan Clinthorne, Brady DelVecchio, Olivia Donnel, and Audrey Frieberg will be sharing their gifts with us in an afternoon of song. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful quartet of soloists here at FPCRO, and this concert will feature them in ways that go beyond what we hear on a Sunday morning. Their program will include solos, duets, trios and quartets from classical Art Song, Opera and Musical Theater. Within this huge variety of pieces there will be something for everyone to enjoy. This year, the singers will be accompanied by our Organ Scholar, John Etsell at the piano. John is the principal pianist for Detroit Opera and holds a DMA in collaborative piano from the University of Michigan. Join us in support of our talented singers for a beautiful concert which will showcase the versatility of their gifts. The concert will be free and open to the public.

Choir Season Celebration

Sunday, June 15 will be the conclusion of the choir season at FPCRO. During the summer months our choirs take a deserved break and we get to feature some of our members in special Offertory's or Preludes. Several years ago, we began a new tradition of concluding our season with a service based on a specific theme that would include all of our ensembles. This year's theme is **"For the Beauty of the Earth: A Celebration of God's Creation."** Sunburst Singers, Jubilate Bells, and Chancel Choir will share music in praise of the gift of our earth and our liturgy and scripture will help us to appreciate all that God has given us to enjoy and care for. This Sunday is also a good time to thank our choir members and soloists for all they give to us throughout the regular church year.

Vacation Bible School, June 23-27, 2025

True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdz75edh> and register today! **Volunteer at True North VBS:**

This is a wonderful week of sharing God's word with our church children and the children of our community. We are looking for volunteers for a variety of areas. Not only do we need helpers during the event, but also helpers for planning and designing sets and props. Please visit our Sign-up Genius at <https://tinyurl.com/m55mvbt> to join in on the fun!



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.