

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MARCH 17, 2024 | 9 & 10:30AM

Fifth Sunday in Lent



fpcro

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

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

arr. Fred Bock

10:30

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

arr. Arnold Sherman

~Jubilate Bells

©1995 Agape (a Div. of Hope Publishing Co.)

Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship¹

One: Life is not just sweetness and light.

All: Trials will confront us all.

One: Where is our strength in the hardest of times?

All: In the love and grace of God who encourages us.

One: How do we journey through the challenges of life?

All: With trust in the One who journeys with us.

One: In that trust, let us turn to worship God in peace and praise!

◊Hymn #412

“He Comes to Us as One Unknown”

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith ©1973 Hope Publishing Co.

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly and stray from our faith. But in the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. So we confess our sins, trusting in God’s wisdom and strength, rather than our own. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, we come before you aware of our smallness in the vastness of the universe. Who are we that you care for us? And yet you do—completely! We are sorry for allowing ourselves to waste time speculating on the future, instead of entrusting it to you. We are sorry for trying to take control of matters that are not ours to control. Lord, forgive us for allowing our focus to drift away from you. Transform us and restore us to be followers of Jesus, who watch and pray and respond to your daily call to us.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Attentive to your presence, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: In Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and one another.

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: Forgiveness leads to peace in our hearts and in our lives. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

All: And also with you.

Minute for Mission

SCUBA Vacation Bible School

Joelle Jarrait

(10:30am)

Time with the Children

After the Time with the Children, kids may go to Sunday school classes with their teachers.

Those attending Sunburst Singers music time will be taken to practice directly from Sunday school.

Others will return to the sanctuary at the end of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our shadowy world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 102”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Festal Song*, #590 “Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

“Let Zion be a home to those that hold her dear,

That people yet unborn may know their Lord is ever near.

The heav’ns some day shall pass, and earth return to sod,

But coming years will see no end to love which comes from God.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 102 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Mark 13:1-8; 24-37

Pew Bible, NT pg. 50

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“My Eyes for Beauty Pine”

Herbert Howells

~Chancel Choir

“My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for God’s grace, no other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face. One splendor thence is shed from all the stars above: ‘Tis named when God’s name is said, ‘Tis Love, ‘tis heavenly Love. And every gentle heart that burns with true desire, is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.”

©1928 Oxford University Press

Sermon

“Aware, Awake, Engaged”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Watch and Pray”

Edward Travis

~Brady DeVecchio

“Watch for the hour, the time draws near, when in his might he will appear: then be prepared the Lord to greet, and cast thyself before his feet. No hardened judge in him you’ll find, but breathing love most pure and kind: “My children I have come to save, and bear them from the darksome grave.” Then let us pray and loudly sing, whilst round about the echoes ring; light of the world, supremely blest are those who find in thee their rest. Passing the gulf and rocky shore, our earthly troubles are no more; but resting on thy gracious love, we join the angelic choir above.”

Public Domain

◇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

Litany—“A Liturgy for Paying Attention”²

All: Oh Christ who lingered, who listened, who welcomed interruption, let us be generous with attention.

Right: Busyness tricks us into scarcity, into clutching on to time as if we could lose it.

*Distracted by yesterdays' failures and tomorrow's fears,
we forget the gift of today.*

*We long to stand attentive, to be startled by creation again,
to be astounded by what has faded to familiarity.*

Left: May we take notice of the lives we have been given.

*May we tune our ears when a friend speaks, make eye contact with strangers,
touch fields of flowers, become students of trees.*

May we regard how even dishes and dust have something to teach.

*May our focus be always on You, looking for Your fingerprints in the world,
for to stay curious is to stay present.*

All: May awe be the filter through which we experience the ordinary.

Right: Lay claim to our lives again so we can attend fully to this moment.

*Slow our pace and settle our spirits so we may bear witness to beauty,
to details in the myriad stories around us.*

*Left: May our attention feel more like a prayer that never ceases,
like a rope that tethers us to You.*

**All: We lay down our need to perform and produce,
and choose to dawdle in nature,
to lengthen conversations, to linger with neighbors,
to stroll instead of sprint, to believe time is oil we can pour out on You.
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 over*)

“The Days are Surely Coming”

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

◇ Benediction

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Prelude in a minor”

J. S. Bach
Public Domain

- 1 Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 18, 2016.
- 2 Audrey Elledge and Elizabeth Moore, *Liturgies for Wholeness* (Waterbrook, 2024), 34-35.

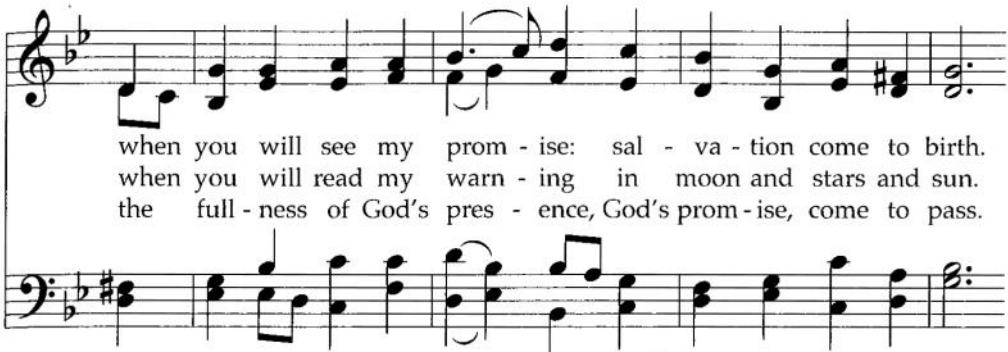


Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Contact the pastor if you are in need.

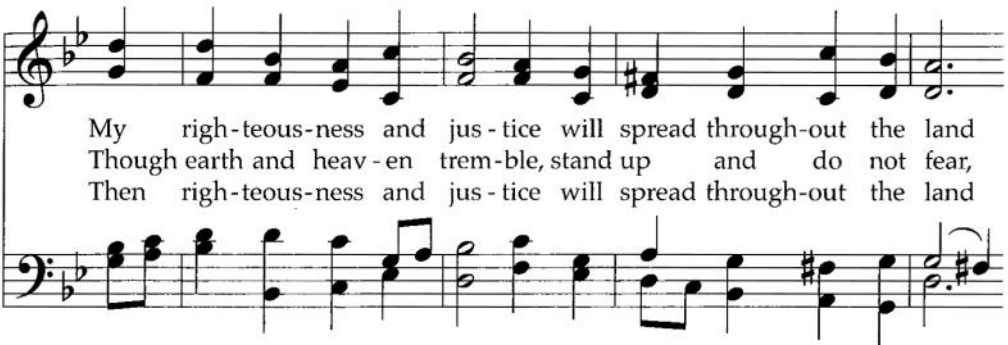
The Days Are Surely Coming



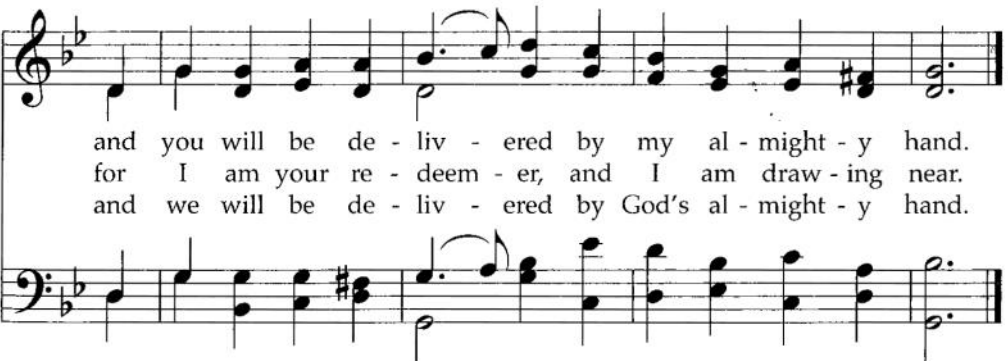
1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last



when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.



My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land



and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

LITURGIST

Karen Thomas

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

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

Nursery Care Worker: Julia Carroll

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given anonymously: *"We dedicate and thank our hard-working, creative staff, and all the volunteers (both seen and unseen) who keep this church community alive and well."*

Join us for Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service. The Men's Fellowship Group are hosting today.

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

Middle and high schoolers and friends are invited to our collaborative S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) youth ministry. Meetings, on select Sundays, are from 4:30-6:30pm, unless otherwise specified. Questions? Contact Director, Jessica Gibbs, at stageyouth@gmail.com. Scan the QR code for more info.

Sunday, March 17: Regular Meeting at FPCRO

Sunday, April 7: Regular Meeting at First Pres. Birmingham

Sunday, April 14: Service Project TBD

Sunday, April 21: Regular Meeting at Cana Lutheran Church



Household Items Collection for Lighthouse

Thank you for helping to provide move-in baskets of household items for Lighthouse clients exiting the shelter and moving into their first apartments. If you took a tag with an item, donations are due back by **Sunday, March 24**. Thank you for sharing with our community!

Lent in Plain Sight Discussion Group

Join Pastor Emma in reading *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield. Read one devotion per day and gather at the church for discussion of each week's readings on **Wednesdays from 1-2pm, through March 27**. God is often at work through ordinary people and objects. These devotions highlight ordinary objects Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem. Read Week 6 entries for the meeting on March 13.

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper— Can you bring a soup?

Join us for a Soup Supper at **6pm** before the Maundy Thursday Worship service on **March 28**. We'll have a simple meal of soup and crackers and conversation at the table. Then we'll head to **worship at 7pm**. To make the meal possible, we are looking for volunteers to bring a crock pot of soup to share. Signup if you can donate one: <http://tinyurl.com/4w4cnsyu>

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

Easter takes on the most meaning when we also enter the story of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. Join us for worship throughout Holy Week and on Easter Sunday!

- **Maundy Thursday**, March 28: Soup Supper at 6pm, Worship at 7pm with Communion and readings of Jesus washing his disciples feet and praying in the garden.
 - **Good Friday**, March 29: Worship at 7pm with choir, scripture, reflections, and sermon. We'll explore *the things Jesus carried* as he went to the cross, including the crown of thorns, the sin of the world, and the amazing love of God.
 - **Easter Sunday**, March 31: Worship Services at 9am & 11am in the sanctuary, with brass accompaniment, as we sing "Alleluia" and proclaim that Christ is risen, indeed!
-

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offerings

This is the season for One Great Hour of Sharing. Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Anytime now, through Easter, you may make an offering through the FPCRO by indicating "OGHS" on your offering. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot—thanks for your heartfelt gifts!

Kirkman Scholarship Fund Applications Due March 31

Are you discerning higher education for yourself? Church members who are high school seniors or older are eligible to apply for a one-time scholarship through the Kirkman Scholarship Fund. This fund allows us to award scholarships to members who are seeking higher education. Most forms of higher education are eligible, and are not limited to colleges and universities. Naming the place of learning at the time of application is not required. Award checks will be mailed to the school later in the year. Applications are available on our church website at www.fpcro.org. If you would like more information, please contact Joelle Jarrait.

Flower Sale Fundraiser for S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

The annual Flower Sale is back! Order beautiful flowers to plant in your garden, as well as hanging baskets, and tomato pots with cages. All fundraiser proceeds support the operation of the S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry. Orders are online only: <https://tinyurl.com/4pe4hb23> Place orders by **2pm, Sunday, April 21**. Order pick up is from **12pm-2pm on Saturday, May 18**, at **Greenfield Presbyterian Church**, 2312 Greenfield Road, Berkley.

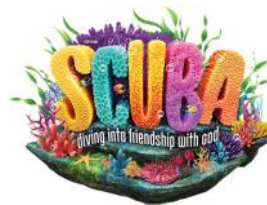
ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Register Today! Scuba VBS is June 24-28, 9am-12pm

Children will receive a free gift when they register!

<http://tinyurl.com/yc42r5m8>

Children ages 4 years old through 5th grade welcome.



Volunteer for SCUBA VBS !

Our 2024 VBS is June 24-28! 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/mr53bmf> to join in on the fun!



Little Free Pantry

FPCRO's Little Free Pantry serves unhoused neighbors as well as those who may be running short on funds. Below is a suggested list of non-perishable items which may be dropped off during church office hours. For cash or check donations, please indicate the "Little Free Pantry" on the check or note. **Pull-Tab Cans:** stew (beef and chicken), fruit (cocktails, peaches, pears, etc.), vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.), baked beans, soup (any variety), beefaroni/ravioli (ready-to-eat), canned tuna, chicken, or turkey. **Non-perishables:** granola bars (soft/chewy, any flavor), cereal (small individual boxes), tuna/chicken (ready-to-eat pouches), Knorr rice/pasta sides, peanut butter, snack crackers/cookies, small bottled waters, juice boxes, Easy Mac and Cheese (pouches/cups).
