

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

APRIL 21, 2024 | 9 & 10:30AM

Fourth Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERIES
APR 7-MAY 19



FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

*How God's Spirit
guides our lives*



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

“Spirit of the Living God”

arr. John Carter

10:30

“Andante”

Josef Rheinberger

Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: In worship, we give thanks to God for the life of faith.

All: We offer to God our work of faith and labor of love.

One: We seek to be steadfast in hope through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: May the power of the Spirit meet us here.

One: May we deepen our conviction in faith and our openness of heart.

All: May our worship honor God and inspire us to serve.

◊ Hymn (*see insert*)

“The Mighty God with Power Speaks”

Text: ©1999, 2011 Michael Morgan (admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources)

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: The one who calls us to repent hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God’s forgiveness. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: God of love, we say that our faith has the power to change the world. But we often forget to act on that potential. We talk about justice, but we ignore the poor and the policies that maintain divisions. We talk about love, but act in ways that are less than compassionate. We talk about hope, but we sink into cynicism and despair. Forgive us and abide in us by the power of your spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through your Holy Spirit, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: God’s promises are sure.

All: Through Jesus Christ, our sins 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: Christ's peace is a gift that passes all undersatnding.
May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

All: And also with you.

(10:30am)

Time with the Children

After the Time with the Children, kids in 1st grade and above are encouraged to sit with the families in the pew or use the Prayground. Kids in Kindergarten and below will go with Ms. Joelle to the Parlor and return at the end of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: By the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Pew Bible, NT pg. 217

Psalm

“Psalm 37”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Ellacombe*, #267 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

**“Though hosts may deal affliction, the Lord our strength shall be;
God’s might shall burst the nets they cast and set the captives free.
Salvation is the promise the Lord preserves in store
for those who live in goodness, and trust God evermore.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 37 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Acts 17:1-9

Pew Bible, NT pg. 142

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God”

~Chancel Choir

“Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul. Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole. Cause your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see. Give me passion for your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me. Holy Spirit, come abide with-in; may your joy be seen in all I do. Love enough to cover every sin in

each thought and deed and attitude. Kindness to the greatest and the least; gentleness that sows the path of peace. Turn my striving into works of grace. Breath of God, show Christ in all I do. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made. Show your power once again on earth, cause your church to hunger for your ways. Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice, that in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me."

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Sermon

"A Spirit that Stirs Us"

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Choose Ye"

Andre Vaneuf

~Brady DeVecchio

"Choose ye this day whom ye will serve; why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one that di-eth, saith the Lord! With gladness will I serve Him, by loving well my neighbor; for love fulfills the law of God; such serving is not labor. The troubled ones, the weary ones, are cheered by deeds of kindness, for Jesus healed with deeds of love the deaf, the lame, and blindness. With courage will I serve Him, in living, not in dying; the law of goodness never fails, keep trying, still keep trying."

©1929 Oliver Ditson Co. (Theodore Presser Co.)

◇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—Adapted from the hymn, "O Lord, All the World Belongs to You"

by Patrick Appleford²

All: O lord, all the world belongs to you and you are always making all things new.

Right: *What is wrong, you forgive.*

The new life you give is what's turning the world upside down.

One: *The world is only loving to its friends, but your way of loving never ends;*

Left: *even loving enemies too.*

This loving with you is what's turning the world upside down.

All: The world lives divided and apart.

Right: *You draw people together, and in our friendship, we start to see that in harmony, we can be turning the world upside down.*

One: *The world wants the wealth to live in state, but you show a new way to be great:*

*Left: like a servant you came, and if we do the same,
we'll be turning the world upside down.*

One: O lord, all the world belongs to you and you are always making all things new.

**All: Send your spirit on all in your church whom you call
to be turning the world upside down.**

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 (see insert)**

“Go to the World!”

Text: Sylvia Dunstan, 1985 ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

◇ **Benediction**

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Toccatà”

Max Reger
Public Domain

1 Portions of today's liturgy were adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 18, 2016.

2 Patrick Appleford, "O Lord, All the World Belongs to You," Josef Weinberger Ltd., 1965.

LITURGIST

Pat Johnson

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

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

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

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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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 given by Karen and Kevin Kline in honor of our family's roots in the church and our family's growth within the church.

Interested in Becoming a Member of FPCRO?

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership, a new member class is being planned for this spring. Contact Rev. Emma Nickel at enickel@fpcro.org for more info.

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 information.

April 21: Game Night from 5:15-6:30pm at FPCRO

May 5: Regular Meeting at FPCRO

May 18: Flower Sale at Greenfield Presbyterian Church

June 9: End of Year Party at FPCRO



Flower Sale Orders Due Today; Fundraiser for S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

All proceeds support S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry operation. Order online only: <https://tinyurl.com/4pe4hb23> Place orders by **2pm, Sunday, April 21**. Pick up is from **12pm-2pm on Saturday, May 18**, at **Greenfield Presbyterian Church**, 2312 Greenfield Road, Berkley.

Returning Outside Group Rental Today

Sportsman's Dog Training Club will be hosting AKC Scent Work Trials at FPCRO **today**. They'll be using the entire building both days for scent trials, except the worship wing starting at the reception desk. During their rental, we ask you to please exit the building through the Chapel or Hendrie doors. Signs will be out as reminders. Remain in this section of the building as much as possible. Rest rooms will be open. If able, please use the ones at the top of the stairs in the CE Lobby; The dogs are being timed, please don't interact with them.

Become a Better Listener—April 29 Presentation

On **Monday, April 29** from **7-8:30pm**, Pat Johnson, retired healthcare chaplain, spiritual director, and Commissioned Ruling Elder, will present **"Listening Sets the Bruised Heart Free,"** an in-depth look at listening to others, ourselves, and God. Sign up at the CE Lobby reception counter, or online at <https://tinyurl.com/328a4uja>. This is a broad spiritual view of what makes for a meaningful growth experience, and is based on her book, *Listening for Life*. Highlighting these three layers of listening, Pat will share stories of encounters with patients while a chaplain. Read her book in advance (listed on Amazon.com) or purchase it after the presentation (check/cash only). Learn more about Pat on her website patj.substack.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Spring Grounds Clean-Up

This year's Spring Grounds Clean-Up is **Saturday, May 4, 9am-12pm**. Join us to ready the church's flower beds and grounds for the season. *Saturday, May 11 is the rain date.* Thank you!

Women's Fellowship Group

The Women's Group will meet from **9:30-10:30am** on **Friday, May 10 and Friday, June 7** at Coffee and Bark in Berkley. Questions? Contact Amanda Curry.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Group will gather on **Monday, May 13 at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's in Berkley. Please join us for a return visit, or your first time, for some free-flowing conversation on a wide range of subjects. Questions? Contact Derek Helenberger or Matthew Nickel.

Community Buy Nothing 'Free Sale' Event in Our Parking lots

On **Saturday, May 18 from 9am-12pm** (rain date, June 15), FPCRO will host a group for a Buy Nothing Free Sale in our parking lot. Many RO residents are members of 'Buy Nothing' Facebook groups, where they take unwanted/unused items and gift them to others. This year, the group is hosting an in-person event which fosters **community connection and cares for creation** by keeping items out of landfills. To offer this community service, we need volunteers! Could you: Serve as a **parking lot attendant** on this day, directing people where to park and set-up? Serve as a **host at a booth** for our church offering greetings, giving directions to our church's bathrooms, water fountains, and pointing people to the event's coordinators for other assistance? Sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/3mpttsn2> or email Pastor Emma to let her know you want to participate.

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

Children will receive a free gift when they register!

<http://tinyurl.com/yc42r5m8>

Children 4 years old through 5th grade welcome.



Volunteer for SCUBA Vacation Bible School!

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/mr53bmrf> to join in on the fun!

Earla Smith Foundation Grant Applications

Applications for grants will be accepted until **April 30**. The committee will review the applications and send them to Session for approval in May. Earla Smith set up this grant to benefit FPCRO and the Troy School District for special programs and other activities of the church. If you have a proposal for how these funds could be used we encourage you to submit an application. **Visit <https://www.fpcro.org/forms-event-scheduling>** to download application form. Contact Kari for more information and/or assistance.
