

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

NOVEMBER 24, 2024 | 10:30AM

Reign of Christ 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:

- 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.
- 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](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org)



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## Giving

Giving online is a fast and easy! Click GIVE at [www.fpcro.org](http://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

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

### Prelude

“Jesus Still Lead On” Op.65

*Sigfrid Karg-Elert*  
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### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊ Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: God knows us,

**All: knows our names, knows our hearts.**

One: God is in us still:

**All: God’s image is written deep within.**

One: Jesus Christ reigns in all the world;

**All: in our hearts and in all creation.**

One: God knows us, God calls us,

**All: and so we come together—God’s own—to worship and praise.**

#### ◊ Hymn (*see insert*)

“O God of Earth and Space”

Text: Jane Parker Huber ©1980; from *A Singing Faith*

### Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Though we rely on God’s mercy, we shy away from invitations to repent of our sin. But when we confess the truth of our lives and turn toward God, there we find God’s overflowing grace. So let us dare to come to God with honest hearts. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### Prayer of Confession<sup>2</sup>

**All: God, your fondness for humanity knows no limit. When we ignore your guidance or refuse to repent, we can only rely on you to restore us. For all the ways we stray from your call to love, we rest on the promise of your forgiveness. So please God, write your word upon our hearts. Show us the power of your covenant. Remind us of your incredible promise: that you will be faithful to us, even when we fail to remain faithful to you.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Hear our prayers, O God.

**All: Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, the good news is that the body and blood of Jesus Christ has become God's new covenant with us. By the grace of Christ—the one who reigns—we are freed to worship and serve!

**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: Even when we struggle to find peace in the world, it is the Prince of Peace that rules our hearts. When we share forgiveness and peace, we demonstrate Christ's reign through lives. 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 with their teachers. They will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Source of all true wisdom, calm the troubled waters of our hearts and still all other voices but your own, that we may hear and believe what you have to say to us in your Word, by the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

### Psalm

“Psalm 51”

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

***“Into my secret heart send truth, let wisdom in me grow;  
O wash the evil from my hands, and make me pure as snow.  
A clean and upright heart, O Lord, exchange for mine of stone;  
Thy Holy Spirit meld with mine, and leave me not alone.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 51 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 36:1-8; 21-23; 27-28; 31:31-34 *Pew Bible, OT pg. 823, 824, 817*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

“Crown Him”

arr. Dan Forest

~Chancel Choir

*“Alleluia! Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne: Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own! Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee, and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity. Crown Him the Lord of love: behold His hands and side rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified; no angel in the sky can fully bear the sight, but downward bends his wondering eye at mysteries so bright. Crown Him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o’er the grave, who rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save; His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die. Crown Him the Lord of heaven: one with the Father known, one with the Spirit through Him given from yonder glorious throne. To Thee, be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died; be Thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified! Alleluia!”*

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## Sermon

“Deepening Relationships”

Rev. Emma Nickel



## THANKSGIVING

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### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“If With All Your Hearts”

Felix Mendelssohn

~Brady DeVecchio

*“If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me’. Thus saith our God. Oh! That I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence!”*

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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 Dedication

### ◇Affirmation of Faith—from *Confession of 1967* of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

One: God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life.

**All: Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom.**

One: The kingdom represents God’s triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God’s creation.

**All: Already God’s reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and**

**redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. 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**

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◇ **Hymn** (*see insert*)

“O God, Who Gives Us Life”

Text: Carl Daw Jr. ©1990 Hope Publishing Co.

◇ **Benediction**

**Postlude**

~*John Etsell*

“Toccatà”

*Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck*

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1 Today's Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 20, Spill the Beans Resource Team, 2016, 92.

2 Adapted from “Prayer of the Day,” “God promises a new covenant,” for Nov 24, 2024, *Working Preacher*, <https://tinyurl.com/r3um8aus>.

## **LITURGIST**

Laurie Gerald

## **EPCRO 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*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Joan Wesa in memory of her parents, John and Erna Dienes.

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### Hanging of the Greens is Today!

Lend a hand after worship today as we decorate the church for Advent. Help hang wreaths, garland, and put up and decorate trees. We are grateful for your assistance!

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### Poinsettia Dedications

It's time for poinsettia dedications! Plants are \$15.50 this year, and orders are due by **December 1**. Complete an order form and return it with a check (payable to First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak). Leave your check and order form in the basket at the reception desk. Questions? Contact Chris Klein at 248-990-8586.

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### Angel Tree Toy Donations

You are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys to bring a sense of love and hope to a child in your community. Please bring unwrapped gifts to FPCRO by **Sunday, December 1**. In addition to toys, the Salvation Army is in need of **new winter coats**. The Angel Tree program in Royal Oak helps 15 communities in Southeast Oakland County. Need gift donation ideas? Use the QR codes on the poster in the CE Lobby, or the links provided here, for the Amazon (<https://tinyurl.com/4xtbuf6x>) and Walmart (<https://tinyurl.com/5ewehxn6>) Angel Tree wish lists.

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### Advent Study: Mondays in December, 11am-12pm

Beginning **December 2**, join Pastor Emma to read the short book *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes: An Advent Study*. Order your copy now! (<https://tinyurl.com/ycazk8tf>) Also available on Kindle. This Advent study will help us anticipate the gift of Jesus as we explore the unique ways each of the gospel writers describes the incarnation. We visit the "home" of Mark—a spare, simple house—then travel to the fully decked out home of Luke and his familiar nativity story. With stops at Matthew's and John's abodes, too, we notice how the differing stories emphasize various aspects of God-made-flesh.

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### Help Provide or Serve Dinner at Welcome Inn Overnight Shelter

On **December 6 and 14**, FPCRO members are invited to help provide and serve dinner at the Welcome Inn overnight shelter located at Starr Presbyterian Church (13 Mile and Crooks Rd). Please sign-up for what food you can donate and, as appropriate, bring hot and ready to serve that night. Food will be dropped off at Starr Church between 6:30-6:45pm. Several volunteers are also needed each night for serving the meal and cleaning up. To sign-up for either date, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n7w7usp> Questions? Speak to Nancy Lambert (December 6) or Jim Kaliszuk (December 14).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### Let's go Christmas Caroling!

Join the Deacons after worship on **Sunday, December 8** to go Christmas caroling to friends in the congregation. We'll share joy and song to celebrate the coming birth of Jesus with folks who can't get to church as often. Bring a snack so you're fueled up for 3-4 caroling stops. Feel free to wear your fun holiday gear.

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### Service of Longing and Hope

All are invited to bring your experiences of challenge, grief, or loneliness to our Service of Longing and Hope, jointly offered by the Stephen Ministers and the Ministry of Music on **Wednesday, December 11 at 7pm** in the Sanctuary. Together, we will seek God's healing and hope. Join in person if you can, to enjoy anointing, the laying on of hands, and lighting candles as we offer prayers to God. If you can't make it to church, the service will be livestreamed.

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### Upcoming December S.T.A.G.E. Dates

Regular meeting on **December 8**, from 4:30-6:30pm at **First Presbyterian Church Birmingham**. Christmas Party on **December 15**, from 4:30-6:30pm at **First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak**. 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! Join our newsletter by emailing [stageyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stageyouth@gmail.com) for all the details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are open to all Middle and High School Students (6th-12th grade)

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LEARN  
MORE



### Christmas Eve Worship Schedule:

Join us on **December 24** at one or both services to welcome the Christ child!

5pm—Family service with pageant and glow-sticks

7pm—Traditional service of candlelight and carols, jointly with Drayton Presbyterian Church

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### Church Office Holiday Schedule

The church office and The Backyard Playroom will be closed for the holidays, December 25-27 and January 1.

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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.*