

The Service for the Lord's Day



May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

fpcro 

First Presbyterian Church
of Royal Oak

529 Hendrie Boulevard
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Phone (248) 541-0108

www.fpcro.org

Please silence all devices

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

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. Sunday school classes are available for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade during the 10:30am service, after the Time with Children.

Today the *Almost Sacraments* worship series continues. The series explores everyday ways we experience signs of God's grace in our lives. Through exercise, food, service, friendship, and music, God's grace and love are powerfully present to us, much as they are in the sacraments of baptism and communion. In these "almost sacraments," we can encounter the presence of God in experiential ways in which Jesus also took part.

I. GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

9:00

"Think About His Love"

Harrah arr. Hayes

10:30

"Partita on the Hymn-tune *O Waly Waly*"

Franklin Ashdown

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We love

All: because God first loved us.

One: God invites us here.

All: And so we come to pray and praise, to ask for help and seek renewal.

One: God meets us here, just as we are.

All: And so we can bring the fullness of ourselves before God.

One: Through our worship today,

All: may we know the fullness of God's love.

***HYMN #397**

"The Gift of Love"

Text: Hal Hopson; Music: English, adapted Hal Hopson ©1972 Hope Publishing Co.

CALL TO CONFESSION and KYRIE ELEISON

One: Though we are captive to sinful ways, God has freed us to experience divine love in our lives. Trusting in that good news, we come to God in prayer. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God, you love us so well, and yet too often, we fail to love you. Our conscience is not clear. We also confess that our human friendships and relationships are very complicated. We hold grudges with the people closest to us. We refuse to make amends. We focus on problems instead of people. Show us how to live with love at the heart of all we do. Teach us how to love you anew. Help us mend the particular relationships in our lives that are in need.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: We make our prayer in Christ's name,

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has given us a new birth into a living hope. Rejoice in the good news:

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***JOYFUL RESPONSE**

“Alleluia No. 1”

**“Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name!”**

Text & Music: ©1973 The Word of God Music (Admin. The Copyright Co.)

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: We are renewed in love and reconciled in faith. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(10:30)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

II. PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Come Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds. Spark us with a word of life and a vision of love. Give us a message to share with others as we seek to live Christ's love in the world. All this we ask in the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains. Amen.

PSALM

"Psalm 136"

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Dix*, #40 "For the Beauty of the Earth"
***"O give thanks unto the Lord, who above all gods shall reign;
Sing your praise with one accord, ever in God's fold remain.
For God's steadfast love is sure, and forever shall endure!"***

Paraphrase of Psalm 136 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-12

Pew Bible, NT pg. 260

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30)

ANTHEM

"If Ye Love Me"

Thomas Tallis

~Chancel Choir Soloists and Choral Scholars

"If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth."

Public Domain

SERMON

"Christ Revealed in Love"

Rev. Emma Nickel

III. RESPONDING TO THE WORD

ALMOST SACRAMENTS REFLECTION

Rev. Neeta Nichols

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“The Love Commandment”

W.A. Mozart

~ Audrey Frieberg

“Love all that surrounds you in all your living. Love order, peacefulness and harmony. Love all people as your family. Learn to love the beauty in all you see, the strong in body, the mighty in wisdom. Give each in friendship your hand of faithfulness, and to each one be truthful; give each one your love, and to each one be truthful all the days of your life.”

©1961 Lawson-Gould Music publishers (G. Schirmer, Inc.)

*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 – *The Apostles’ Creed Interpreted, from the PCUSA Study Catechism

One: What do you believe when you confess your faith in “God the Father Almighty”?

All: That God is a God of love, and that God’s love is powerful beyond measure.

One: What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as “our Lord”?

All: That having been raised from the dead he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, we give glory and honor to God.

One: What do you believe when you confess your faith in the Holy Spirit?

All: That apart from the Holy Spirit, our Lord can neither be loved, nor known, nor served. The Holy Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to himself, the teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the comforter who leads us to repentance, empowering us to live in Christ’s service.

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.

IV. FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN #393**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Text: John Fawcett; Music: Johann Nageli; arr. Lowell Mason, Public Domain

***BENEDICTION**

(10:30)

POSTLUDE

“Postlude on *O Waly Waly*”

Franklin Ashdown
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**Indicates please stand as you are able.*

10:30am Liturgist: Rev. Neeta Nichols

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PROGRAM STAFF

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Julia Carroll, Nursery Care Worker

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*; Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*; Olivia Donnel, *soprano*; Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*



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.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 21 in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 am worship service to elect elders, deacons, and at-large nominating committee members. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please Note Upcoming Worship Schedule

There will be **one worship service at 10:30am** for the following weeks:

- **May 28:** Pentecost Sunday
- **June 4:** Confirmation Sunday
- **June 11:** Global Hymn Festival

S.T.A.G.E. Schedule • Youth Ministry for Grades 6-12

May 14: No meeting, Happy Mother's Day!

Saturday, May 20: Flower sale set-up at 8am, with plant pick-up from 12 noon to 2pm at Greenfield Presbyterian Church

May 21: No meeting, rest up after the Flower Sale!

May 28: No meeting, Enjoy Memorial Day weekend!

June 4: End of Year Picnic at Cana/Drayton at 4:30pm for students and families.

July 9-15: High School Mission trip to Chicago.

July 24-27: Middle School Mission Week in Metro Detroit.

Online Giving: Giving online is a fast and easy way to give at FPCRO. Through our PayPal page you may give a one-time gift, or you may set up recurring gifts using a debit/credit card, or your PayPal account. Thank you!



Today's **CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Barb & Bill Hayes in loving memory of their son Eric.

Today we welcome the congregation of Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak to our worship service. We are delighted to worship alongside them as they discern God's calling for the future of their church.

Choral Scholars Fundraising News

Thanks to the congregation's generosity, we are delighted to announce that we have met, and even slightly exceeded, our goal of \$18,000 to fund the Choral Scholars program for the coming two years! What a joy to continue welcoming young people to join with us in praising God in song. We are grateful for your contributions, support, and prayers.

Support Group Starts Tomorrow

Beginning **Monday, May 15**, a small group will meet from 7pm-8:30pm once a week, for six to eight weeks, to support those struggling with depression or bipolar mood disorder. Each session will focus on education, support, and a time of prayer and reflection. Helpful resources will be made available as well. Pat Johnson, MA, CSD, BCC, is the facilitator. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/56zs3454>. Questions? Email pjohnson71@gmail.com.

Are You Celebrating a Graduate?

Graduation season is upon us! If your family is celebrating a graduate associated with FPCRO, we would love to share about them in an upcoming Church Bell newsletter. Please send the student's name, a photo, school, program from which they are graduating, and any special interests, accolades, or future plans to **Sally Gilreath (sgilreath@fpcro.org)** as soon as possible, or by **May 18**.

H.O.M.E. Mission Project for May

Our **Helping Out, Mission Edition** (H.O.M.E.) project for this spring is **Birthday in a Bag** as we anticipate the birthday of the church at Pentecost. Bags are due on **May 21**. Help to celebrate the birthday of the church by donating a bag for a child who will enjoy a happy birthday!

STELLAR Vacation Bible School • Volunteer for STELLAR VBS!

Our 2023 STELLAR VBS is **June 26-30 from 9 am-12 noon**. Registration is now open! Our fun week of finding Jesus' light is coming soon! We are looking for volunteers for a variety of areas. Please visit our sign-up genius at <https://tinyurl.com/ycka7hwf> to join in on the fun!