

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

**FEBRUARY 4, 2024 | 9 & 10:30AM**

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



*Compassion*

*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](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org)



### 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

---

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

### Prelude

9:00

“We Are an Offering”

*arr. Fred Bock*

10:30

“Chatter with the Angels”

*Spiritual arr. Mark Arnold*

*~Jubilate Bells*

©2016 Choristers Guild

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊ Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: In private, in public, knowing our needs you come to us, Jesus:

**All: the carer, the compassionate one, the healer.**

One: In our pain: body, mind or soul, we come to you,

**All: in awe, in hope, in worship.**

#### ◊ Seasonal Response

“God, We Honor You”

*(next page over)*

©2008 James E. Clemens

#### ◊ Opening Prayer

**All: Loving God, Jesus said he came that we may have life. But not just any life: abundant life. Help us to understand the abundance of your love and the outpouring of your grace. Help us to celebrate those gifts, which make our lives meaningful and whole. Help us to share those gifts and to share the compassion we learn from you. Amen.**

#### ◊ Hymn #624

“When the Poor Ones”

Text & Music: J. Olivar & Miguel Manzano ©1971 San Pablo International- (admin. OCP Publications);

Translation: ©1990 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Co.)

### Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Even when we forget to share Christ’s love and compassion, he never stops sharing them with us. Trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ, we turn to God in prayer. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

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

**All: Loving God, we want to touch the hem of your garment; forgive us for being afraid to touch those who come to us for hope. We want to love the whole world; forgive us for ignoring our neighbor. We long for peace; forgive us for**

# God, We Honor You

D G A7 D

God, we hon - or you. God, we trust in you.

Bm Em/G A Dsus D

God, we wor - ship and a - dore you.

D G A7 D

Take what we bring, of - fered to you.

Bm Em/G A Dsus D

Teach us to show your a - bun - dant bless - ings.

D G A7 D

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Bm Em/G A Dsus D

al - le - lu - ia, a - men.

**the hurt we inflict on our families and friends. We want to share what we've been given; forgive us for walking past those who need you most. Give us grace to touch those who frighten us, to carry the Bread of Life to the hungry, and to offer your blessings to everyone we meet.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Through Christ, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

One: Listen to the Good News! Hope in God, for God's love has no ending. God fills us with grace and forgiveness.

**All: God hears our voices and listens to our prayers, redeeming us from our sins. 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: Jesus promised abundant life. That doesn't mean riches or fame, but it does mean that our lives have meaning and that we are called to live in a deep kind of peace. 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 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: Loving God, your compassion for us is a comfort and reassurance. As we read your word, let us hear ourselves in your story. Let us see ourselves called to reflect your good news to the world. Amen.**

### **Psalm**

“Psalm 131”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Tallis' Canon*, #715 “Now Let Us from This Table Rise”

***“A child again in mother's arms, my soul at peace in your accord;  
I fix my confidence and hope in tender mercies of the Lord.”***

## Scripture Reading

Mark 5:21-43

Pew Bible, NT pg. 40

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

(10:30am)

## Anthem

“Offertory”

John Ness Beck

~Chancel Choir

*“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, shall I come before Him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give Him my first-born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

©1987 Beckenhurst Press, Inc.

## Sermon

“Compassion that Leads to Life”

Rev. Emma Nickel



# THANKSGIVING

---

## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“My Task”

E. L. Ashford

~Bryan Clinthorne

*“To love someone more dearly every day, to help a wandering child to find their way, to ponder o’er a noble thought, and pray, and smile when evening falls, this is my task. To follow truth as blind men long for light to do my best from dawn of day till night, to keep my heart fit for His holy sight, and answer when he calls, this is my task. And when my tasks are finished one by one, to prove through faith God’s will on earth is done, ‘tis then at last I’ll know my life complete, dwelling in peace and love. So ends my task!”*

©1963 R.D. Row Music 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 for Compassion**—By Kate Bowler, “For when so many are suffering (and you don’t know what to do)”<sup>3</sup>

One: Oh God, so many are suffering beyond what they can bear.  
Come quickly with help that is stronger than death.

**All: You see the vulnerable, who face what we find hard to imagine.  
And their caregivers and healthcare workers, families, teachers,  
and helpers of every kind who string together scarce resources  
while they're running on empty.**

One: Blessed are we, still in our relative ease, still jars of clay, yet broken,  
who give to others what we yet can give,  
who pray boldly, and love fiercely.

**All: This is the very ground of our being—  
God's love for us and love working through us.  
God, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Spirit, have mercy. Amen.**

### *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

#### **Invitation**

#### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

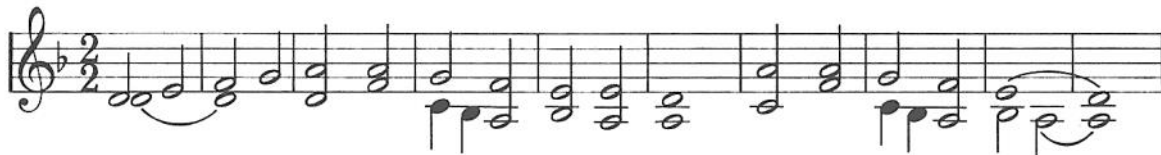
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: It is right and our greatest joy...we raise our voices in praise:

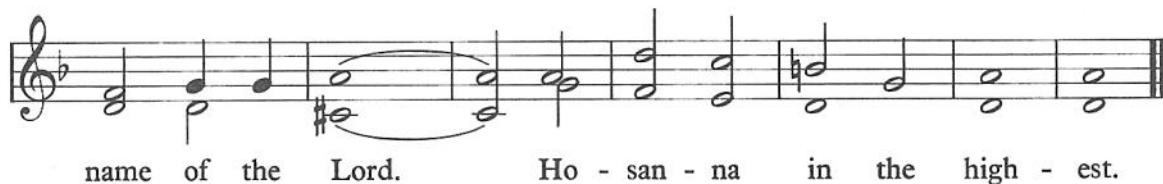
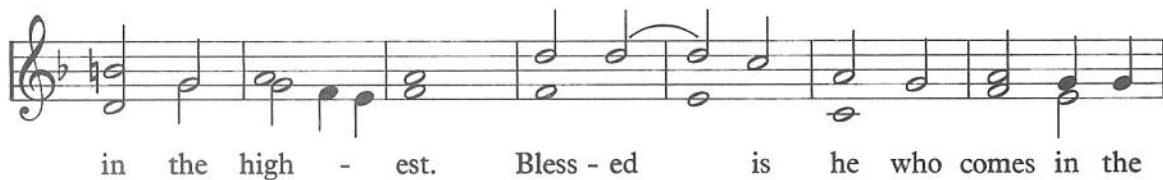
#### **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na



One: Your greatest blessing to the world...we gladly claim the life Christ offers and witness to all that Christ has done:

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

One: Holy Spirit, who binds us to Christ and to one another...we join our voices once again to pray the words you taught us, saying:

### **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**

### **Words of Institution**

### **Communion of the People**

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion! You are welcome at God's table here regardless of your denomination or affiliation.*

*At 10:30am, you are invited to come forward to the servers at the front of the church to receive the bread and cup. Please open your hands and the server will place the bread into them. Eat the bread when you receive it. A gluten free bread option is available in the center of the plate; please let the server know and you're invited to take the GF bread from the plate yourself. Take a cup and drink from it, then place the cup in the trashcan nearby. If you prefer to be served in the pew, please remain there and a server will come to you.*



## Prayer After Communion

**All:** God our host, thank you for the joy of this meal. Through it, we have touched the hem of your garment, as you commune here with us at your table. Send us out to live and proclaim the compassion and abundant life you offer. Through Christ we pray, Amen.



## SENDING

### ◇ Hymn

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

*(next page over)*

Text: Ruth Duck ©1996 The Pilgrim Press; Music: Irish melody arr. Alfred Fedak ©2011 Alfred Fedak

### ◇ Benediction

*(10:30am)*

### Postlude

“Epilogue”

*Norman Gilbert*

©1958 Oxford University Press

1 Adapted from *Spill the Beans*, Issue 17, 2015-2016, spillthebeans.org.uk

2 By Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

3 Kate Bowler and Jessica Ritchie, *The Lives We Actually Have, 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* (New York: Convergent Books, 2023), 60.

### MUSIC NOTES

The Prelude at 10:30 is an arrangement of the African-American spiritual “Chatter with the Angels,” often sung as a lullaby to children. The text is *Chatter with the angels soon in the morning, chatter with the angels all day long! I hope to join that band and chatter with the angels all day long!* The arranger makes clever use of mallets to represent the chattering of the angels.

### LITURGIST

Robin Brighton

### FPCRO STAFF

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel

*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

*Parish Associate:* Rev. Neeta Nichols

*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

### SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

*Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE, License #A-735100. All rights reserved.*

*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.*

# Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)  
F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> C7

*Refrain*



Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)  
Dm F/C B<sup>b</sup> C7 Dm F/C Gm



liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)  
F B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 F B<sup>b</sup> F



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart. *Fine*

(D) (G) (D) (G)  
F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's  
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)  
C7 Dm F/C B<sup>b</sup> C7



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)  
Dm Gm7 F B<sup>b</sup>2 B<sup>b</sup>



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

*to Refrain*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

## Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Joan Wesa in memory of her loving mother, Erma Dienes.

---

## Fellowship Coffee Hour

Join us after the 10:30am worship for coffee hour hosted by Gail Meengs and Liz Mercer.

---

## Today is the Last Day to Order Super Bowl Subs!

Pick up an order form at the reception desk and return it with payment by **today, February 4**. Purchase online <http://tinyurl.com/4388jw22>. Our S.T.A.G.E. youth group is offering tasty sub sandwiches for pickup on Super Bowl **February 11**. Your purchase supports students attending the 2024 summer mission trip for tornado recovery in Kentucky.

---

## Souper Bowl of Caring

On **Sunday, February 11** we are participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. You are invited to bring a non-perishable item for our Little Free Pantry. Can goods with pull-tabs, fruit cups, and cereal/granola bars are great. Our Little Free Pantry at FPCRO has been a truly helpful resource for the community. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you may do so by labeling it "Souper Bowl of Caring" or "Free Pantry."

---

## 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](mailto:stageyouth@gmail.com). Scan the QR code for more information.



**February 4: Regular Meeting** at Cana

**February 10: Subs for Super Bowl Prep** at FPCRO

**February 11: Subs for Super Bowl Fundraiser** at FPCRO

---

## Taste of Pilgrimage

The Great Lakes Pilgrimage will be hosting an event called a "Taste of Pilgrimage" at St. Thomas Community Presbyterian Church in Shelby Township (55355 Mound Road) on **Saturday, February 10**, from **11:30am to 1:30pm**. A Taste of Pilgrimage will provide an overview of the spiritual renewal weekend called Pilgrimage that helps you grow in your Christian life. It will include music, worship, a short talk on Christian priorities and a group discussion. Afterwards there will be a potluck lunch and fellowship. Questions? Contact FPCRO member Norm Bayne.

---

## Pledge Dedication on February 11

We will dedicate our pledges to God and the church in one worship service at **10:30am on Sunday, February 11**. Join us for special music, a live artist creating in the sanctuary during our service, and the special Abundant Life Art Share following worship. Bring your pledge card anytime now through February 11. Thank you for responding to God in faith!

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

---

### **Abundant Life Art Share...Coming Feb 11 to Kirkman Fellowship Hall!**

Join our church family in sharing what brings us joy at the *Abundant Life Art Share*. To our *Art Share*, bring one picture, drawing, piece of art, photograph, or similar item that makes your life more abundant. Display your item in our 'gallery,' and be ready to tell others why this is a special part of your life. Please sign up to participate: <http://tinyurl.com/5t4b5zbj>. All are encouraged to come to Kirkman Fellowship Hall on **February 11** following the 10:30 service for coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship to share our Abundant and Joy-filled lives.

---

### **Men's Fellowship Group**

The Men's Group will meet on **Monday, February 12** at 7:30pm at Bagger Dave's in Berkley. This is a return to our second Monday of the month. If you have any questions, please contact Derek Helenberger or Matthew Nickel.

---

### **Ash Wednesday worship, February 14 at 7pm**

Join us to begin the season of Lent on Wednesday, Feb 14 in the sanctuary at 7pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes and will be livestreamed. If you cannot attend the service, you are welcome to visit the church between 9am and 2:30pm on Ash Wednesday to receive ashes.

---

### **Lent in Plain Sight Discussion Group**

When Lent begins on **February 14**, 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, February 14 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. Order your book now so you'll be ready for Lent.

---

### **Snack Pax Bags**

After the 10:30am worship service on **February 25**, join us to pack 400 more snack bags for children in the area who might not be getting enough to eat at home. This is a great intergenerational event for all abilities. Please **pick up some bags from the Christian Education lobby this month to decorate** ahead of the event; they're **due February 18**. The snacks will be packed in the decorated bags on February 25.

---

### **Easter Flower Dedications**

It's time to "think spring" with a flower dedication (choice of lily, daffodil and hydrangea) for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31. Please fill out an order form at the reception desk and turn it in with a check payable to FPCRO by March 3. Questions? Contact Chris Klein at 248-990-8586 or CKlein8000@live.com.

---



*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.*