

The Service for the Lord's Day



December 25, 2022 • 10:30am

Christmas Day—Nativity of the Lord

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.

I. GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

arr. Gerald Kemner

©1974 White Harvest Music Corp.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Break forth into singing, all God’s people. Hear the good tidings of salvation and peace!

All: God has done marvelous things among us. Let us make a joyful noise together this day.

One: There is a new song in the air. The whole universe responds to the child in our midst.

All: The winds lift up the songs of angels. Flames of fire proclaim the Spirit’s presence.

One: A light shines amid our gloom.

All: As children of God, we bear witness to the light. As followers of Christ, we proclaim the wonder of rebirth.

***HYMN #198**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: In the light of Christ’s love, our inability to follow in God’s ways becomes clear. In the light of Christ’s love, we trust in God’s forgiveness and can confess our sin. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God, you reign over all creation, yet we have tried to reduce you to the limits of our understanding. You have come to enlighten us, and we have shielded ourselves from the brightness of your revelation. You offer us a path, yet we prefer to forge our own way. As the joy of Christmas resounds in our hearts, restore us as your children. Help us to follow the ways of the Christ child.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: With open hearts, we pray,

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Sing a new song to God who has done marvelous things! God is victorious over sin and embraces us with a love that will not let us go.

All: God anoints us with the oil of gladness so we are free to break forth in joyful noise.

One: This is the good news: we are forgiven, loved, and freed.

All: Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE #185**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*“Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”*

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: We celebrate the forgiveness and peace that the Christ child brings. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Share a sign of peace and reconciliation with your neighbors, such as a hand over your heart.

II. PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Gracious God, let us hear your good tidings of peace in a world that often turns away from your revelation. May the coming of your child prompt a new song within us and bring depths of joy to this community of faith. We await your word of grace and truth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-14

Pew Bible, NT pg. 94

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

All: Thanks be to God.

PROCLAMATION IN SONG

#152 *“Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. Oh, blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.”*

Text ©1982 Hope Publishing Co.

#183 *“Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.”*

- #186 *“Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright ’round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.”*
- #203 *“Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.”*
- #184 *“What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!”*
- #191 *“It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King”: the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.”*
- #229 *“The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.”*
- #188 *“Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!”*
- #233 *“We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.”*

III. RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

arr. Johannes Michel

©2004 Concordia Publishing House

***RESPONSE #196 vs. 4**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*“What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.”*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CHRISTMAS LITANY¹**

**All: We believe that God has come to us as a little child,
making our weakness his strength,
securing our salvation by becoming one of us,
blessing us with a steadfast savior,
filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.**

One: We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,
giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,
making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority,
declaring an everlasting reign of peace,
defeating the power of pain and suffering.

**All: We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,
inviting us to proclaim Christ’s resurrection,
transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,
sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort,
challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.
This we believe.
This we preach.
This we seek to embody in word and deed.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER¹

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 #218**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

arr. Neil Harmon

©2008 Birnamwood Publications (admin. MorningStar Music Publishers)

**Indicates please stand as you are able.*

- 1 Stephen M. Fearing, “Christmas Affirmation of Faith,” Year C, December 17, 2015, <http://www.stephenmfearing.com/liturgy/christmas-affirmation-of-faith-year-c>

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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!



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.

PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Emma Nickel, Pastor, ext. 206, enickel@fpcro.org
Joseph Jackson, Director of Music Ministries and Organist, ext. 218, jjackson@fpcro.org
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SOLOISTS

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

S.T.A.G.E. Schedule (*Somewhere To Ask God Everything*) **Youth Ministry for Grades 6-12**

- **December 25 & January 1-No meetings** - Christ is born! Happy New Year!
- **January 8**—Meeting at **Greenfield Presbyterian** to finalize Youth Sunday plans.
All grades will meet together from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, with dinner at 6 pm.
***Dinner still needed for this night. Sign-up to help with link below.*
- **Saturday, January 14**—Youth Sunday **10 am rehearsal** at **Greenfield Presbyterian**
- **January 15**—**YOUTH SUNDAY** at **Greenfield Presbyterian Church**, with services **at 9 am and 11am**. The Sub Sale fundraiser will kick off on this day, which is a mission trip fundraiser.
- **January 22**—**Crossroads** mission service day in the morning/throughout the day.
Details coming soon.
- **January 29**—**Outdoor winter fun**. Details coming soon, depending on weather.

Provide Dinner and/or Volunteer at a S.T.A.G.E. Meeting

Can you **provide dinner** for the youth (about 12 students) on a Sunday evening?
Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4fafad2ca7fd0-stage> and sign up!

Volunteer at a S.T.A.G.E. Meeting

Can you **serve as an adult volunteer** during a Sunday meeting?
Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4fafad2ca7fd0-stage1> and sign up!

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. This church-wide Special Offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is one way we are a connectional church in the 21st century. It brings together the diversity of the PC (USA) to take faith-based action on shared concerns as we offer a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



Year End Contributions

We welcome your gifts at any time during the year, but we know many folks like to offer year-end donations. If you would like to make such a contribution to FPCRO, please make sure it is delivered to the church or postmarked by December 31 to be included on your 2022 contribution statement. Otherwise, per IRS guidelines, it will appear on your 2023 giving statement. The church offices will be closed on December 26 and 27. We will be open 9am-3pm on December 28 and 29 and from 9am-1pm on December 30. Remember you can donate online on our website fpcro.org anytime by clicking the red **GIVE button**.

On **January 1**, the first Sunday of Christmas, there will be **one worship service at 10:30 am**.

Youth Sunday at Greenfield Presbyterian Church

On **January 15**, there will be no worship services held at FPCRO, as we will be led in worship by the S.T.A.G.E. youth at **Greenfield Presbyterian Church**, with services at **9am and 11am**. The Sub Sale fundraiser will kick off on this day, which is a mission trip fundraiser.

Sunburst Singers January Schedule Change

For the month of January only, Sunburst Singers will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday (instead of the 1st and 3rd Sunday) from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm.

FPCRO's New Podcast

FPCRO's new podcast *Forging Faith: when spirituality and life collide* launches in mid-January on our website and on Apple podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and iHeartRadio. Listen to conversations that show how faith is shaped and stretched amid the challenges life deals us.

Little Free Pantry

As we think of neighbors in need this season, an easy way to help is by donating items to the Little Free Pantry at church. The pantry serves homeless neighbors, as well as many folks who are simply running short on funds. If you would like to contribute to the pantry, popular items include ready to eat stews and soups, granola bars and similar items, peanut butter, and cereal.