

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

NOVEMBER 2, 2025 | 10:30AM

21st Sunday after Pentecost



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:

- 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. Third graders and older are encouraged to sit with their family in the pews.
- 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



Giving

Giving online is fast and easy! Click GIVE at www.fpcro.org to make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts may be 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

“Aria”

Flor Peeters

©1946 Edition Heuwelkemeijer

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship¹

One: Children of God: welcome!

All: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

One: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

All: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community.

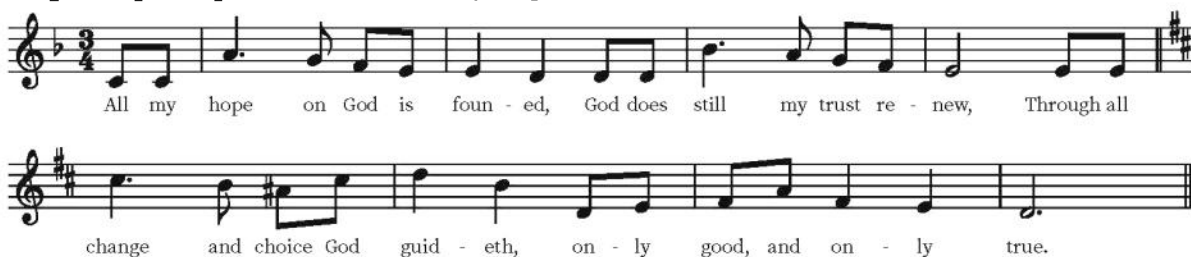
One: God invites all of us to experience the building of hope all around us.

All: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

One: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

Opening Song

“All My Hope on God is Founded”



Text: Robert Bridges, alt. Jackson; Music: Joseph Jackson

Prayer of the Day

All: Holy God, you are our rock and strong foundation. May our wavering hearts find hope in this gathering of worshippers. May our timid actions be strengthened by the certainty of your hope. To you be all praise and glory, Amen.

♦ Hymn #405

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

Public Domain

Call to Confession

One: Trusting in the mercy of God, we can confess our sin before God and each other.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious God, we are prone to building our lives on shaky values. We conform to what the world says matters most: wealth, beauty, youth, health, and power. But we confess that these values fall short of the goodness you offer, which is found in empathy, kindness, sacrifice, vulnerability, and freely given love. Help us shed our loyalty to misplaced values. Forgive us and draw us closer to your ways. Help us to feel the strength of your grace underneath our feet.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Trusting in Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, the news is good and worthy of full acceptance:

All: Through Jesus Christ, we 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: With hope in our hearts, we can live in Christ's peace. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Anthem

"My Hope Is in the Lord"

Jay Stocker

~Sunburst Singers

"I can't help but feel a little down, a little worried when I look around. That's why my hope is in the Lord. I fix my eyes upon the God who gives, 'cause all I need is what I have in him. That's why my hope is in the Lord. My hope is in the Lord. I belong to him. He will never let me go. My hope is in the Lord. I can count on him. My hope is in the Lord."

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Time with the Children

After the Time with the Children, kids may go to Sunday school. They will return to the sanctuary to participate in Communion.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:12-13, 24-27

Pew Bible, NT pg. 7

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

Philip Stopford

~Chancel Choir

“Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build; with his true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled; on his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above. O then with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring; our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing; and thus proclaim in joyful song, both loud and long, that glorious name. Here, gracious God, do thou forevermore draw nigh; accept each faithful vow, and mark each suppliant sigh; in copious shower on all who pray each holy day thy blessings pour. Here may we gain from heaven the grace which we implore; and may that grace, once given, be with us evermore, until that day when all the blest to endless rest are called away. Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build!”

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Meditation

“Hope is what we do”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Story of Hope and Invitation to the Offering

Kevin Ball

Offertory

“How Firm a Foundation”

Jenny Shaw Garlock

~Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi

“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, who unto the Savior for refuge have fled? In every condition, in sickness, in health, in poverty's vale or abounding in wealth, at home or abroad, on the land or the sea, as thy days may demand, so thy succor shall be. Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand. The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes; That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never forsake!”

©2015 Jenny Shaw Garlock

◇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

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer²

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

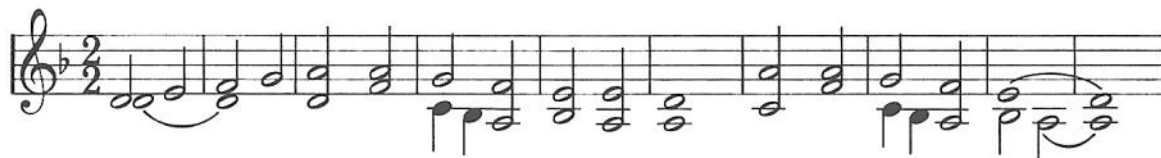
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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 good to give you thanks and praise..And so in thanks and praise we join our voices in the song of the angels and saints, who forever sing to you, as we say these words:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



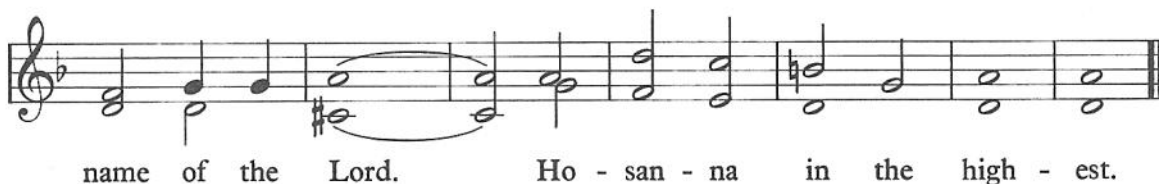
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



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



in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the



One: Blessed is your son, O God, our savior Jesus Christ...By your Spirit, we follow Jesus and trust in the mystery of faith:

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

One: Now we pray that that same Spirit will be among us...And hear us as we are bold to say together the prayer that Jesus taught...

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 and Receiving of Blocks

Everyone is welcome to receive communion! You are welcome at God's table here regardless of your denomination or affiliation. Communion is offered by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to the servers at the front of the church. Please open your hands and the server will place the bread into them. Gently dip your bread into the cup of juice, then eat it all together. Then return to your seat by the side aisles.

A gluten free station is in front of the lectern on the right side of the sanctuary for any who prefer to use it. At this station, individual cups of juice are available instead of the dipping option. Take a cup and drink from it, then place the cup in the trashcan nearby.

*After you visit the communion station, stop at the **basket of building blocks**. Take one block with you back to your seat. After worship, you're invited to bring your block downstairs to Kirkman Fellowship Hall and add it to the creative structure we will build together.*

If you prefer to be served in the pew, please remain there and a server will come to you.

Prayer After Communion

All: Thank you, Lord, for meeting us here in the bread and cup and in this community. As we go out from here, let our hearts sing of your hope. Let our words speak of your love. Let our lives imitate yours. It is in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



SENDING

◇Hymn (*below*)

"Let Us Build a House"

Text & Music: Marty Haugen ©1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

◇Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on "My Hope Is Built"

Craig Phillips

©2016 Oxford University Press

- 1 Call to Worship adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good.' Used with permission.
2 Communion liturgy from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good.' Used with permission.

Let Us Build a House

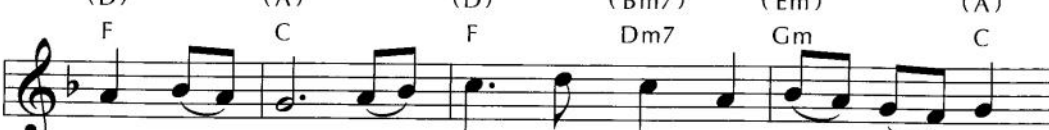
All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



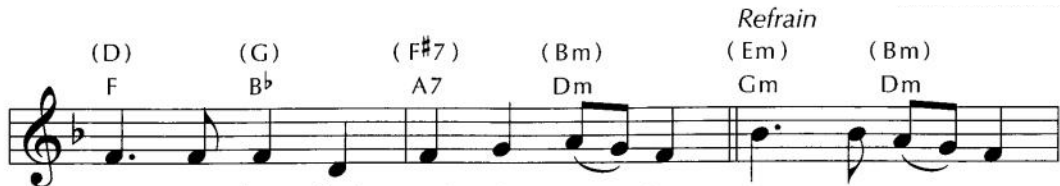
safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

LITURGIST

Ted DeVantier

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director: Jessica Gibbs

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

Nursery Care Worker: Abby Pochron

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi, *tenor*

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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 dedicated to our visitors and new members.

Building Hope Launch Today!

Building Hope is FPCRO's campaign seeking your financial gifts to support necessary repairs and improvements within the church, but it is also much more. After worship, join us for a light lunch and short presentation to build our hopeful future on the strong foundation of Christ. Worshippers will receive a building block in worship to take to Kirkman Fellowship Hall where we will all build a new creation together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Upcoming S.T.A.G.E. Meetings

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! Email **stageyouth@gmail.com** for our newsletter to learn details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are from **6-8pm** (unless otherwise specified) and are open to all 6th through 12th graders.

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



- Regular meeting at First Presbyterian Church Birmingham on **November 16**
 - Service Project at FPCRO on **November 23**
-

Fall Grounds Clean Up

The House & Grounds committee invites you to join us **Saturday, November 8, from 9am-12pm** to help put the grounds and the garden beds of the church into good shape in preparation for the winter. Bring your gloves, rakes, pruning and other tools and we'll provide the leaves and bags to hold them. See you there!

Returning Outside Group Rental

Sportsman's Dog Training Club is hosting an American Kennel Club Scent Work Trial here **November 14-16**. On **Sunday, November 16**, enter the building through the Chapel or Hendrie doors. The entire building is being used except the worship wing starting at the reception desk. The sanctuary, chapel, and nursery will be open. Rest rooms will be open; if possible, please use the ones in the CE Lobby. The dogs are being timed so please don't interact with them in any way.

Hanging of the Greens on November 23

Join us after worship on **Sunday, November 23** to hang greenery and wreaths throughout the church building. Lend a hand to fluff bows or put up trees. We need a few brave and sturdy folks to hang Advent banners in the sanctuary. Thank you for your help to prepare us for this season!

Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closure

The church office will be closed **November 27 and 28** for the Thanksgiving holiday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

The Salvation Army of Royal Oak Angel Tree Toy Donation

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 **Friday, December 5**. 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. Looking for gift donation ideas? Use the QR codes for the Angel Tree wish list. The Amazon wish list is on the top and the Walmart wish list is on the bottom.



Opportunity to Usher on Sunday Mornings

The Worship and Nurture Committee is looking for ushers. Simply arrive 20-25 minutes ahead of the worship service to greet folks and hand out worship bulletins. After worship, retrieve the completed friendship pad forms from the pew racks. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Gail Meengs.

Chancel Flower Dedications

A flower dedication is a special opportunity to celebrate, remember, or honor a member of our church or your family. Please consider signing up for a dedication in the coming year, plenty of dates are open! Contact Chris Klein if you have any questions.

Church Directory

Need an updated Church Directory? Printed copies are available at the reception desk in the CE Lobby. If you would prefer a PDF version, contact Sally Gilreath at sgilreath@fpcro.org for one to be emailed to you.

Little Free Pantry

FPCRO's Little Free Pantry serves unhoused neighbors as well as those who may be running short on funds. Below is a suggested list of non-perishable items which may be dropped off during church office hours. For cash or check donations, please indicate the "Little Free Pantry" on the check or note. **Pull-Tab Cans:** stew (beef and chicken), fruit (cocktails, peaches, pears, etc.), vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.), baked beans, soup (any variety), beefaroni/ravioli (ready-to-eat), canned tuna, chicken, or turkey. **Non-perishables:** granola bars (soft/chewy, any flavor), cereal (small individual boxes), tuna/chicken (ready-to-eat pouches), Knorr rice/pasta sides, peanut butter, snack crackers/cookies, small bottled waters, juice boxes, Easy Mac and Cheese (pouches/cups).
