

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

FEBRUARY 2, 2025 | 10:30AM

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



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 a fast and easy! Click GIVE at 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

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

arr. Keith Kolander
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Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship¹

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

All: We have gathered together to celebrate and give thanks!

One: God is mighty, shaping mountains and rivers, rainforests and coral reefs.

All: God is tender forming dragonfly wings, delicate moss, and drops of dew.

One: Today God is inviting us to care for everything God has made—and to delight in it!

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul! Let us worship God.

◊Hymn #30

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Public Domain

Call to Confession²

One: The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Loving God, though you have made us caretakers in your creation, we are often careless with this vocation. We have allowed the seas to become filled with plastic; we have let the ground be poisoned with chemicals. We fail to protect the habitat of birds and animals. Yet the earth is still full of your creatures. In wisdom you have made them all. Forgive us for our carelessness and disregard for the breadth of your creation. Show us a way to live that stewards all you have given.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Trusting in God, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that we are forgiven and be at peace!

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: The wolf shall lie with the lamb; the leopard shall live with the kid. These are the promises of peace in the Kingdom of God. Through Christ, we glimpse that peace, even now. 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. Students will return to the sanctuary for communion later on in the service.

Minute for Mission

Mobile Food Pantry

Bonnie Tout and Jim Deighton



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Loving God, fountain of blessing, open us to your life-giving wisdom, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts—a spring of hope for a thirsty world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 104”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Peter*, #603 “In Christ There Is No East or West”

“The sea is filled from shore to shore with creatures great and small;

The minnows teem the tide with whales; God’s care extends to all.

They wait for God to give them food, who dwell across the land;

And in the season of God’s grace they feed from God’s own hand.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 104 ©1999 Michael Morgan, *The Psalter for Christian Worship*, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Psalm 104:1-4; 10-25

Pew Bible, OT pg. 614

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“You Do Not Walk Alone”

Elaine Hagenberg

~Chancel Choir

“May you see God’s light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark. May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark. When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone, may you always remember when the shadows fall you do not walk alone.”

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Sermon

“All Creatures: yellow cardinals and 74 year old birds”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“How Great Thou Art”

arr. Dan Forest

~Olivia Donnel

*“O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made! I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. **Refrain: Then sings my soul, my savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art!** When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, then sings my soul, how great Thou art! And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died, to take my sin. **Refrain.** When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and ther proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! **Refrain.**”*

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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

Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer³

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

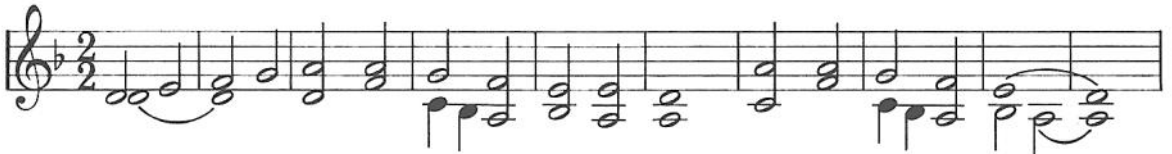
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

One: From the very beginning...we lift our songs of praise to you:

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



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: Holy one...we would speak of that mystery called faith:

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

One: Ever-faithful God...God in Community, as we 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

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.

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

Prayer After Communion

All: God of glory, in this holy meal you show us your will for every meal. By Christ's strength, let us live and work for the day when all tables are filled with your abundance and all your creatures have what they need to thrive. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



◇ **Hymn #23**

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Public Domain

◇ **Benediction**

Postlude

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

arr. Aaron Shows
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- 1 Call to Worship from SALT Project, “All Creatures Great and Small” stewardship and worship resources, 2024.
- 2 By Stephen Fearing, “Confession, Baptism of the Lord, January 10, 2016,” stephenmfearing.com
- 3 Communion liturgy adapted from Thom Shuman, [Lectionary Liturgies](https://www.liturgylink.net/2012/03/07/great-prayer-architect-of-creation/), <https://www.liturgylink.net/2012/03/07/great-prayer-architect-of-creation/>

LITURGIST

Anne-Marie 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 Clinthome, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Karen Kline in celebration of our family's February birthdays: Carrie, Jennifer, Brad, Audrey, and Abigail.

"All Creatures Great and Small" packets are on their way

This week, watch your postal mailbox for your *All Creatures Great and Small* stewardship mailing. This playful theme invites us to fly, leap, or stretch as we seek to serve God with our lives and resources. We invite you to prayerfully consider the request and return your pledge card on or before **Dedication Sunday, February 16.**

Upcoming February S.T.A.G.E. Dates

Regular meeting at FPCB from 4:30am-6:30pm on **February 2**. Sub Sale at FPCRO **February 8 and 9**, Fleece & Thank You Service Project at FPCRO **February 23.**

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 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)

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



Men's Fellowship Group

Join us at the Men's Group gathering on **Monday, February 3, at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's (2972 Coolidge) in Berkley. There's no telling what topics the always stimulating conversation will cover, so feel free to bring your favorites! If you can't make it at 7:30pm, drop in at 8pm or whatever time you can arrive. We are usually there for a couple of hours, sometimes even closing the place down at 10pm!

The Big Game Sub Sandwich Fundraiser—Buy Yours Today!

We need youth to help with our annual fundraiser! Saturday, February 8 we will be prepping the ingredients for the subs, and Sunday, February 9 we will assemble the subs bright and early. Both days we will be at FPCRO and our goal is to have all sub orders for the respective congregations ready for pick-up mid morning on February 9. Refreshments for volunteers will be provided Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Congregational Lenten Devotional

If you signed up to submit an entry for our Congregational Lenten Devotional, remember to submit it to Pastor Emma by email at enickel@fpcro.org no later than **February 9**. Thank you for sharing your experiences with the congregation!

Souper Bowl of Caring

During the month of February, our congregation is participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring! You are invited to bring a non-perishable item for our Little Free Pantry. Cans with pull-tabs are useful. Fruit cups and cereal bars are also great. (Please, no glass containers.) Since its installment, the Little Free Pantry at FPCRO has been a truly helpful source for people in our neighborhood. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you may do so by labeling it “Souper Bowl of Caring” or “Little Free Pantry.”

Blanket-tying Mission Event on February 23

After worship on **February 23**, join the Mission in Service Committee to tie Fleece & Thank You Blankets at Coffee Hour. The blankets are sent to children who are hospitalized to offer warmth and comfort. Plan to welcome the S.T.A.G.E. youth who will be joining us for the event.



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.