

## **The Service for the Lord's Day**



**February 12, 2023**

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

**fpcro** 

First Presbyterian Church  
of Royal Oak

529 Hendrie Boulevard  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Phone (248) 541-0108

[www.fpcro.org](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> grade during the 10:30am service, after the Time with Children.*

### **I. GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

#### **PRELUDE**

“Partita on *Gather Us In*”

*Rebecca Groom te Velde*

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#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God has flung the doors open and invites us to come.

**All: God’s heart is open to us, just as we are.**

One: God has broken down the barriers between us.

**All: God urges us to see the light of Christ in one another.**

One: God has already poured out grace and love for us, and even for the whole world.

**All: God meets us here as we open our hearts to receive that grace. And as we commit ourselves to share that love.**

##### **\*HYMN (page over)**

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Text: Fred Kaan; Music: Doreen Potter; Text and Music ©1975 Hope Publishing Co.

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION and KYRIE ELEISON**

One: Our God is a loving God. Therefore, let us confess our sins, trusting that God will restore us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>**

**All: Loving God, we confess that we have not loved as we ought. We have used the promise of your love to close ourselves off to others. We have set limits on your love, which has no borders. We have guarded how we love others instead of sharing your grace. Forgive us for not loving as you first loved us—without condition. Forgive us for not following the example of our Savior, who became last of all and servant of all, in the name of love. Help us dare to open ourselves to the wonder of your love. Let us take the risk of loving recklessly, in the way you have shown.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Hear the prayers of our hearts,

**All: Amen.**

# Help Us Accept Each Other



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;  
2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life  
3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved  
4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.  
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.  
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;  
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve  
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,  
to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart  
we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.  
to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.  
the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The steadfast love of God endures forever. There is no limit to God's grace. You are God's beloved. You are forgiven and restored. Love one another deeply as God has loved you, and you will know the peace of Christ in your hearts.

**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: We are restored, forgiven, and made whole. We are able to feel and to share the peace we find in our faith. And so, 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: Living, breathing God: open our hearts to your love. Open our minds to your surprising ways. Open our ears to the words you have for us today. Open our eyes to your presence in one another. Amen.**

### PSALM

“Psalm 133”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Germany*, #591 “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

***“How good when all the earth is one, and hearts embrace community;  
When strife will cease to separate, and love binds all in unity.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 133 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 15:1-11

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 140*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

“For Everyone Born”

*arr. Tom Trenney*

*~Chancel Choir*

*“For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead. **REFRAIN: And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!** For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share, with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, a system that's fair. **REFRAIN.** For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song. The hands of a child in*

hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong. REFRAIN. For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free! **REFRAIN.**”

This arrangement ©2016 Birnamwood Publications (MorningStar Music Publishers)

## **SERMON**

“Open: Letting Love Win”

Rev. Emma Nickel

## **III. RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **STRONG, OPEN, READY CONVERSATION**

Karen Kline and Ken Millinger

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

“Let Us Love One Another”

Arnold Sherman

~Olivia Donnel

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love comes from God, and all who know and call upon God’s name are children of the Lord. Beloved, this is what love is; not that we love God, but that God loves us and sent His only Son to free us from our sin. How can we not know our God? How can we not love our God? God sent His only Son to die for all our sins. Is there greater love than this? Beloved, if this is how God loves, then we should love all folk, and live in perfect harmony with all, and God will live in us. Let us love one another.”

©1988 The Sacred Music Press

#### **\*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** — from *A Declaration of Faith*

**All: God created human beings with a need for community and with freedom to enter into it by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience and to one another with love and helpfulness.**

**We believe that we have been created to relate to God and each other in freedom and responsibility.**

**We may misuse our freedom and deny our responsibility by trying to live without God and other people or against God and other people.**

**Yet we are still bound to them for our life and well-being, and intended for free and responsible fellowship with them. Since every human being is made for communion with God and others, we must treat no one with contempt.**

**We are to respect and love all other people and ourselves as well.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER<sup>1</sup>**

**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 (page over)**

“Let Us Build a House”

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

**(10:30)**

**POSTLUDE**

“Alla Marcia”

*John Ireland*

©1911 Novello & Co. Ltd.

*\*Indicates please stand as you are able.*

**The Liturgist at 10:30 today is Chris Klein.**

1 The Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayers of the People were adapted from Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, “Worship Resources for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter,” [www.rev-o-lution.org](http://www.rev-o-lution.org)

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### **PROGRAM STAFF**

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

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### **SOLOISTS**

Bryan Clinthorne, *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.*

# Let Us Build a House

## All Are Welcome

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

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)  
Gm C7 B<sup>b</sup> F Am Dm



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

(Em) (A) (D) (G)  
Gm C F B<sup>b</sup>



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

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) Refrain (Em) (Bm)  
F B<sup>b</sup> A7 Dm Gm Dm



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:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)  
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F (C7)



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

Today's **CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Chris & Pete Klein in loving memory of their parents; Sally & Walter Klein, Elizabeth & Albert Steger.

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### **Pick Up Your Sub Sandwiches Today!**

Orders will be available for pick up downstairs in Kirkman Fellowship Hall **today, Sunday, February 12** after the 10:30 am worship service. Funds raised help support S.T.A.G.E. summer mission trips. Thank you for your support!

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### **Listen to The Forging Faith podcast!**

In episode 7 of our podcast, Mike talks about how his insomnia led him down a path to Buddhism and eventually back to the Christian church. Listen at the church website (<https://www.fpcro.org/podcast>) or search "Forging Faith" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or other podcast platforms.

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### **Free Church Garage 'Sale'**

On **Sunday, February 19**, come find a treasure (or two) at the FPCRO Free Garage 'Sale' in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Between services and during Coffee Hour, browse items the church is no longer able to use in its ministries. Take home your special finds—all for free! As the church's ministries evolve, so do our needs for the items we use in the church. As good stewards of God's gifts, this "give-a-way" will help keep our church tidy and well-maintained. You may also visit the "sale" during office hours Monday, February 20 (9am-1pm) and Tuesday, February 21 (9am-8pm). Questions? Contact Karen Kline.

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### **Ash Wednesday is February 22**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **February 22**. We'll worship together at **7 pm** in the Sanctuary. If you can't make it to church, visit the parking lot between **12 noon and 1 pm on February 22 to receive Drive-up Ashes**. Then watch the livestream of worship at 7 pm.

Our theme for the season is **Re-Framing Lent**.

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### **Bible Study for Lent**

This four-week study, *Improving Baptism*, will look at scripture passages that reflect the challenges of being Jesus' disciple when we know that this journey of Lent leads to a cross. What practices, disciplines, engagements will aid us in the renewal of our baptism and guide us on our journey of following Jesus? This study will meet via **Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays March 8, 15, 22, 29** and will be led by the **Rev. Neeta Nichols**.

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### **February Intergenerational Mission Project**

On **Sunday, February 26** we'll pack bags in Kirkman Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 am service for **Snack Pax**—a program of Song & Spirit Center in Royal Oak. They provide snacks to area children at or below the poverty level. Participate ahead of time and decorate bags located in the CE Lobby, then **return decorated bags on Sunday, February 19**.

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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!

