

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK DRAYTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2024 | 7PM

Christmas Eve Service*
A Service of Light



Barocci, Federigo, 1528-1612 . *The Nativity*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://tinyurl.com/32nxs9s> Original source: <https://tinyurl.com/3mxwej42>



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.
- 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



SCAN ME

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!

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

Prelude

“Variations on a Bourguignon Noel”

André Fleury
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“Gigue on Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Aaron David Miller
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“The Nativity”

The Manger, the Angels, The Shepherds, the Holy Family

Jean Langlais
©1936 H. Hérelle & Cie.

Greeting

Introit

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Polish Carol arr. David Willcocks

~Chancel Choir

“Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angel’s singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new; saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow, Christ the Babe was born for you!”

©1961 Oxford University Press

◊Opening Sentences

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Rejoice, for God is with us—Emmanuel.

All: In the darkness of our world shines God’s holy light.

One: There is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

All: God is truly with us. We are not alone! Thanks be to God!

◊Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

“O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels,

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

***Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing,
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."***

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The Coming of Jesus is Announced

Matthew 1:18-25

Carol

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

***"Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future
years shall see, evermore and evermore!"***

***O that birth forever blessed, when a virgin, blest with grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his
sacred face, evermore and evermore!"***

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The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-5

Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

***"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."***

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Jesus is Born

Luke 2:6-7

Carol

"Away in a Manger"

***"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."***

***The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord
Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look
down from the sky and stay by my side until morning is nigh."***

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Jesus' Birth is Announced to the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

Carol

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

*"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."*

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The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus

Luke 2:15-18

Anthem

"The First Nowell"

arr. David Wilcocks

~Chancel Choir

*"The first Nowell 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. **Refrain: Nowell, born is the King of Israel!** They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain.** And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain.** This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem at took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain.** Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought. **Refrain.***

©1961 Oxford University Press

Meditation

Rev. Dr. J. Scott Miller

Offering Our Lives and Gifts to God

Loose offerings will support FPCRO's Little Free Pantry, which helps community members in need of assistance with food.

Offertory

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Harold Darke

~Chancel Choir

"In the bleak mid-winter frost wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breast full of milk and a manger full of hay; enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, if I were a Wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart."

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Christmas Prayer and 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

Lighting the Christ Candle and Passing the Light

Ryan Family

John 1:1-2, 4-5

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Rejoice! God's light has shined upon all of creation. We light the Christ Candle as a sign of good news for all people:

All: God's Messiah has come!

One: Share in the joy of God's new redemption song for our broken world.

All: Alleluia! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: Christ, the light of the world, gives each one of us light so that we too may shine with gratitude, hope, and love. Receive the light that comes to you, which is drawn from Christ's light. Stand now, in body or in spirit, to share the light and reflect the love of Christ into the world.

◇Carol

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

***“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.***

***Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!***

***Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure Light;
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.”***

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◇Christmas Poem¹

“The Risk of Birth”

by Madeline L'Engle

◇Extinguishing of Candles

◇Carol

“Joy to the World!”

***“Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

***Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow; far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his love.***

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◇Benediction

Postlude

“Postlude on a Noel”

Denis Bédard

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READERS

Shannon Lewand, Anaclare Evans, Benny Rediers, Jim Demerath

PPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

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

Nursery Care Worker: Abby Pochron

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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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

The Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree in the CE Lobby is used to gather warm things for those who need a helping hand. Please think of what you might hang on the tree—gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, socks, etc. Our gifts will go to adults at the Welcome Inn and Second Mile Center, as well as kids at Second Mile Center and local schools in Royal Oak. The need is great! Thank you in advance. Questions? Contact Julie Matthews.

Church Office Holiday Schedule

The church office and The Backyard Playroom will be closed for the holidays, December 25-27 and January 1.

December 29 Family Worship

Our worship service on **Sunday, December 29** is a family worship time. Elementary-age children are encouraged to sit with their grown-ups so they may engage in worship. Younger children will have activities at the Prayground. Nursery care will be available in the nursery.

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 2024 contribution statement. Otherwise, per IRS guidelines, it will appear on your 2025 giving statement. The church offices will be closed December 25, 26, and 27. We will be open 9am-1pm on December 30 and 31. Remember you can donate online on our website fpcro.org anytime by clicking on the “Give” tab.

FPCRO Family Game Night Party

The Worship & Nurture Committee is pleased to host a Family Game Night Party on **Saturday, January 4, 2025 from 2-4pm**. People of *all ages* are invited to bring their favorite game to share!

Ordination Service

Join FPCRO and the Presbytery of Detroit on **Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 2pm** to celebrate the ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament for FPCRO member Lon Kuehn. A reception will follow.

Men’s Fellowship Group

The Men’s Fellowship Group will gather at Bagger Dave’s in Berkley (2972 Coolidge) starting at **7:30pm on Monday, January 6, 2025**. Join us for some multifarious topics of conversation. If you can’t join us at 7:30pm, don’t worry. Join us at 8pm or 8:30pm and you can find a place in one of the conversations.

Women’s Fellowship Group

Women of all ages and stages are invited to participate for fellowship, friendship, and conversation. We’ll meet at North End Taproom (111. S. Main St., Royal Oak) on **Monday, January 20, 2025 at 7pm**. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food.
