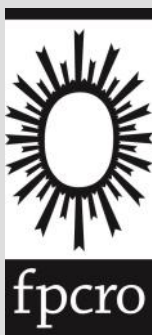


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

AUGUST 4, 2024 | 10:30AM

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



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:

- *Playground* in the back of the sanctuary, where children may do quiet activities, with you nearby to assist, as they absorb the worship service.
- Pew Pouches with children's Bibles to help guide children who sit with their family during the worship service. Find these in the back pew.
- 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

“Elegy”

George Thalben-Ball
©1944 Paxton Music Ltd.

Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship¹

One: Come, let us praise the God of new life, who offers abundant forgiveness.

All: Let us sing and shout for joy!

One: Let us worship the One who is with us forever.

All: Thanks be to God for all God’s blessings.

◊Hymn (*next page*) “God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

Public Domain

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: God’s grace is always trustworthy. Therefore, let us repent, seek God’s forgiveness, and enter into new life in Christ. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, too often we use our power for the wrong ends. We serve our own interests in a selfish way. We yield to temptation by feeding our hunger for things that eventually harm. How different from the way Jesus used his power to serve, heal, and nurture others. Forgive us for listening to empty promises instead of following your ways, which truly bring life. Help us to follow the model of Jesus who brought peace even into the stormiest situations.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: By the power of your Spirit, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Through the power of the Holy Spirit within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. So, hear and believe the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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.

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

1 God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us,
2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
3 How shall we stray, with your hand to di - rect us,

giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing.
stilled our rude hearts with your word of con - sol - ing.
you who the stars in their cours - es are guid - ing?

Wis - dom and strength for each day ev - er send us,
Wrap now your peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
What shall we fear, with your power to pro - tect us,

pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
we who walk forth in your great - ness con - fid - ing?

◇ Passing of the Peace

One: As forgiven people, we share the peace Christ offers. 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 classes with their teachers. They will return to the sanctuary to participate in communion or at the end of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination²

All: Creator of unity, Bond of peace, Spirit of community, bind us together around your Word and send us out to do your justice, show your mercy, and embody your redeeming love, glorifying you, Holy Trinity. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 51”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Anne*, #84 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

**“Have mercy, Lord, according to the measure of Thy love;
Blot out my sin, and from my heart all wickedness remove.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 51 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13

Pew Bible, OT pg. 316

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Power of Imagination”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Amazing Grace”

arr. Morakot Cherdchoo-ngarm

~Peter Gibbs, tuba

©2022 Emerald Music Publications

◇ 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 Thanksgiving³

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 our great delight to praise you, God...Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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: You are holy, God of power and might...Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim together the mystery of faith:

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

One: Come, then, life-giving Spirit...We pray in the words of Jesus, saying together:

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. During the summer months, 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. 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 wisdom and truth, let this meal help us live into your truth: the truth that we are beloved, the truth that we are one community drawn together in you, the truth that goodness and grace are your gifts for the world. Amen.



SENDING

◇Hymn #371

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

Text: Kevin Nichols ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy

◇Benediction

Postlude

“Postlude in D Major”

C. Armstrong Gibbs

©1956 Oxford University Press

1 By Nancy Townley, “Worship Connection, June 5, 2016,” *Ministry Matters*

2 From *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Vol 2*, Ed. Kimberly Bracken Long (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015),104.

3 From *Feasting on the Word*, 267-268.

LITURGIST

Beth De Guise

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

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

Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE, License #A-735100. All rights reserved.

Worship services in FPCRO's sanctuary are now broadcast live and are recorded and posted on our website and social media platforms.

When you enter the sanctuary for a service, you consent to the recording and broadcast of your voice and likeness for such purposes without compensation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Kathie Brom in loving memory of her father, Fred Brom.

Join us for Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall following the worship service. The FPCRO Staff along with the Deacons, are hosting.

School Supplies Collection

During the month of **August**, we are collecting school supplies for Oakland Elementary school in Royal Oak Teacher requested items include: crayons, colored pencils, markers, glue sticks, composition notebooks, primary journals (composition notebook, but with a spot to draw a picture for K-2 classes), plastic folders with prongs, colored dry erase markers, pencils (pre-sharpened), Play-Doh, bingo daubers, socks (for feet and white board erasers).

Back to School Blessing

Join us in worship on **August 25** for a Back to School Blessing! Whether you are a student of any age or you work in schools or higher education, we invite you to come and receive God's blessing for this important moment in the year. Coffee Hour will follow the worship service.

Recommendation Station with Dessert Potluck

What's a great book you've read recently that others might enjoy? Is there a movie, documentary, or podcast that has really opened your eyes or made you think? Come share your recommendations and hear ideas from friends on **Thursday, August 29 at 7pm**. Your recommendations might be faith-based, but that is not required. Beach reads, true crime, powerful cinema, and good laughs are all equally welcome! Bring a dessert to share. We'll enjoy sweets as we share our favorite recommendations and get ideas for what read, watch, and listen to this fall. If you need childcare, let Pastor Emma know by August 15.



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.