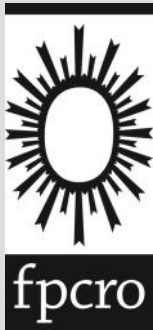


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MARCH 2, 2025 | 10:30AM

Transfiguration Sunday



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

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

arr. Richard Ellsasser
Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: God reigns, let the people tremble! God reigns, let the earth shake!

All: For the Lord our God is exalted over all people!

One: God reigns, let the people tremble! God reigns, let the earth shake!

All: For the Lord our God loves justice and works for righteousness!

One: So come and proclaim at the holy mountain of the Lord:

All: God reigns, let the people tremble! God reigns, let the earth shake!

◊ Hymn (*next page*)

“Jesus, Take us to the Mountain”

Text: Jaroslav Vajda ©1991 Concordia Publishing House

Call to Confession

One: In the story of Jesus’ transfiguration, we see Jesus as he truly is. But in confession we let God see us as we truly are. We name our sins, our faults, and the things we’ve gotten wrong, and we do so in faith that Christ wants to see us as we are. So let’s tell the truth together. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

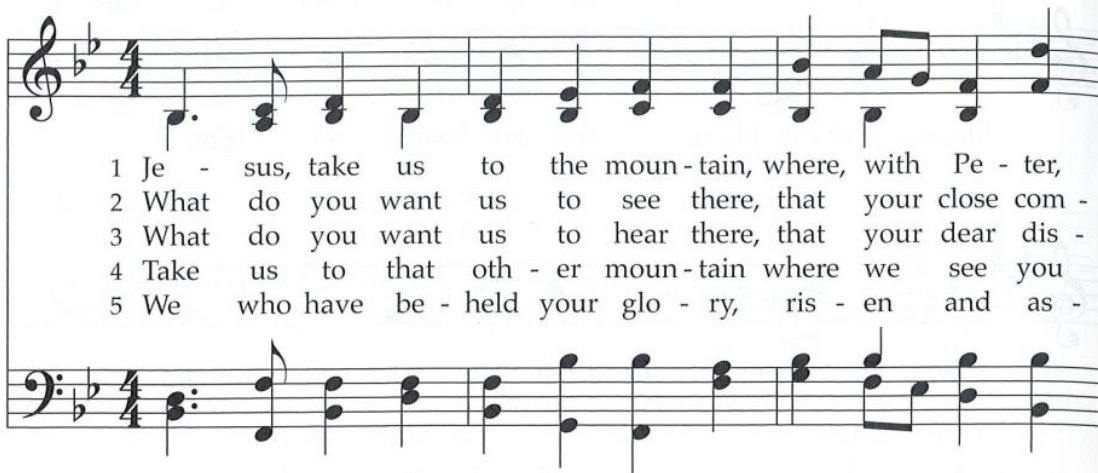
All: Almighty God, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts. You know the ways we’ve fallen short. You know the work we’ve left undone, the mercy we’ve left ungiven, the love we’ve left unshared, the peace we’ve left unmade. You know the arrogance, pride, and violence that we’ve chosen instead of your path of forgiveness and reconciliation. You know who we are. Help us to see who we might be. Forgive us, and transform us, that we might become who you imagine us to become, in your sight, and by your mercy.

[silence for individual prayer]

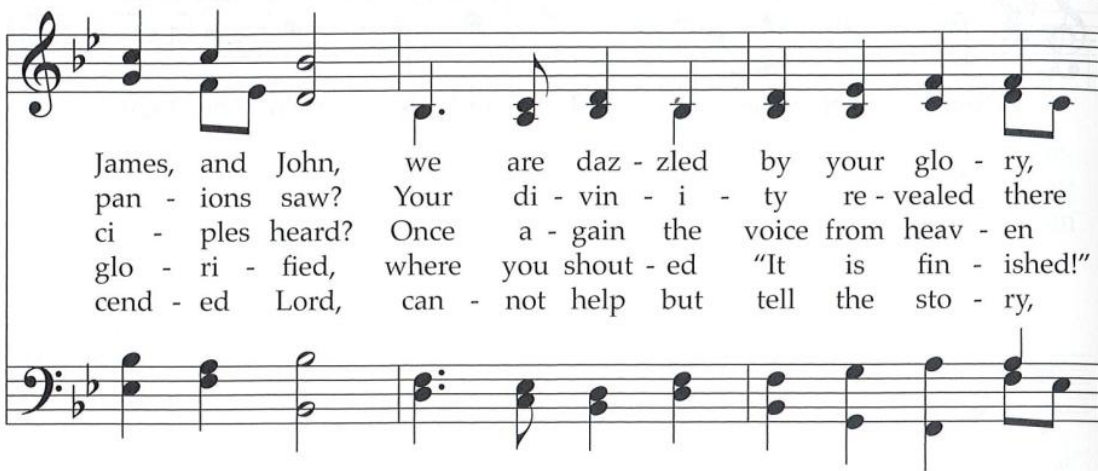
One: Trusting in God, we pray,

All: Amen.

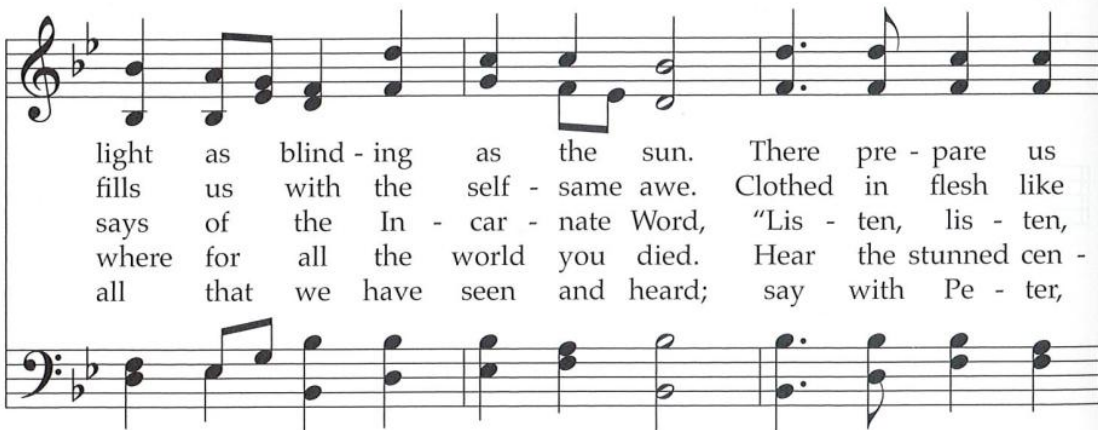
Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun - tain, where, with Pe - ter,
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com -
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis -
4 Take us to that oth - er moun - tain where we see you
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as -



James, and John, we are daz - zled by your glo - ry,
pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there
ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en
glo - ri - fied, where you shout - ed "It is fin - ished!"
cend - ed Lord, can - not help but tell the sto - ry,



light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us
fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like
says of the In - car - nate Word, "Lis - ten, lis - ten,
where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -
all that we have seen and heard; say with Pe - ter,

for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
 ours you go, matched to meet our dead - liest foe.
 ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."
 tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"
 James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, the Lord sees you and knows you. The Lord sees you and loves you. The Lord sees you and calls you. Know that you 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: Seeking to live in the joy of Christ's forgiveness, we share his peace with our neighbors. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Anthem

"Light of Light"

Nancy Gifford

~Sunburst Singers

"Light of light, ever bright, bringing day to darkest night, everywhere hear our prayer, give us eyes to see. Laudamus te (we praise you). Evermore we adore God of majesty and awe, everywhere hear our prayer, give us voice to praise. Laudamus te (we praise you). Benedicimus te (we honor you). Adoramus te (we adore you)."

©2009 Choristers Guild

Time with the Children



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Almighty God, in your light may we see light, in your truth may we see truth and in your Holy Word may we be called into holy work. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 99”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Leoni*, #16 “The God of Abraham Praise”

**“God reigns, enthroned on high; let all the earth proclaim
With trembling lips the awesome might of God’s great name!
A holy Lord, whose rule is marked with equity;
Whose righteousness to us is bound all time to be.”**

Paraphrase of Psalm 99 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Luke 9:28-45

Pew Bible, NT pg. 71

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“God Be in My Head”

Howard Helvey

~Chancel Choir

“God be in my head and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes and in my looking; God be in my mouth and in my speaking; God be in my heart and in my thinking; God be at mine end and at my departing. Amen.”

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Sermon

“Darkness and Light”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“With Overflowing Heart, O Lord”

Joseph Barnby

~Brady DeVecchio

“With overflowing heart, O Lord, I meditate upon thy goodness, the crown thou soon wilt set upon my youthful brow; the spouse thou soon shalt dow’r me with, will make my cup of human bliss run o’er. The chosen of the Lord to me shall be perpetual blessing; unto thy throne her many voiced anthem nature lift; my grateful soul shall swell the song of praise. The soft southern breeze plays around me, the birds trill their eventide song; the leaves of the wild trees make music, the waters flow murmuring along. Creation adores thee, O father, its myriad soft voices outpour, to thy throne a sweet song of thanksgiving melodius numbers doth soar. I bow me, almighty, before thee,

I also do worship and praise, and thank thee, O Lord, for thy goodness that blesseth all humans first days. Guide my footsteps, protect me, O father, my strong help and buckler still be, and when the death angels shall call me, let me live blest forever ever with thee.”

Public Domain

◇ **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.

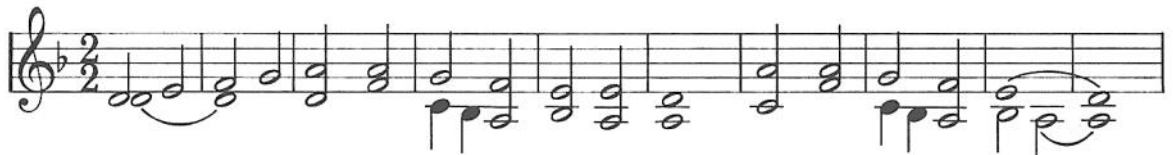
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

One: Mighty God of Moses and Elijah, Hannah and Elizabeth...Therefore we praise you, joining the hymn of all the saints who sing your praise:

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: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ...Great is the mystery of faith:

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

One: Now let us share in your Holy Spirit...All this we pray to you God, through the gift of your Spirit, saying the words 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: Holy One, your light shines among us and through us. We see its glory in the blessings of this meal, where we feel unity with one another and communion with you; where all are fed and everyone is welcome; where just a little food is enough to feed all of us. Send us out to live and share these holy experiences in the everyday parts of our lives. Amen.



SENDING

◇ **Hymn (next page)** “You, Lord, are Both Lamb and Shepherd”

Text: Sylvia Dunstan ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

◇ **Benediction**

Postlude

“Toccata”

John Weaver

©1968 Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

- 1 Call to Worship by Nancy C. Townley, “Worship Connection: July 17, 2022,” Ministry Matters, January 8, 2022, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4009/worship-connection-july-21-2019>
- 2 Prayer of the Day by Nancy C. Townley, “Worship Connection: July 17, 2022,” Ministry Matters, January 8, 2022, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4009/worship-connection-july-21-2019>

LITURGIST

Eddie Watson

FPCRO 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.

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

Capo 5: (Am)
Dm

(F) (C) (Em) (Am) (A7)
B^b F Am Dm D7



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -
3 You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our

(Dm) (G) (C) (F) (Em) (Dm) (Am)
Gm C F B^b Am Gm Dm



prince and slave. You, peace-mak - er and sword-bring - er
on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory;

(B^b) (F) (E) (A/C[#]) (Dm)
E^b B^b A D/F[#] Gm



of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing
beg-gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er - last - ing
have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing
wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing

(Am) (G) (Am) (Dm) (Em) (Am)
Dm C Dm Gm Am Dm



in - stant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.
in - stant; you who are both gift and cost.
in - stant; you, who are our pil - grim guide.
in - stant; you, who are our death and life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Joan Wesa in honor of her daughters, Amy Wesa and Lorrie Wesa.

Lenten Devotional

Pick up a paper copy of the FPCRO Lenten Devotional **today** or download a PDF if you prefer to view it on a device. Many members of the congregation have shared their personal faith experiences as a way to guide us through the season of Lent as we explore topics that include learning, turning, wilderness, journey, struggle, and spiritual practices. We hope you will enjoy this opportunity to both deepen your faith and draw closer to fellow church members.

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

Regular meeting at FPCB on **March 2**, and at FPCRO on **March 16**.

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



Celebrating Drayton Presbyterian's Ministry

Today at 2pm in the FPCRO Sanctuary, Drayton Presbyterian Church will celebrate and conclude its ministry. All are invited to give thanks for their congregation's legacy, as we also give thanks for the promise of resurrection. A reception will follow.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Group will gather at Bagger Dave's (2972 Coolidge, in Berkley) on **Monday, March 3 at 7:30pm**. Those who have been before know the conversation ranges far and wide, high and low, all over a matrix of topics. If you haven't been before, join us! If you have, come back and invite a friend to join you. See you there!

Ash Wednesday Worship Service, March 5 at 7pm

Join us for the imposition of ashes and to mark the beginning of Lent on **March 5 at 7pm** in the Sanctuary. The service will be livestreamed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Visit a New Mission Partner—Building Beds 4 Kids in Oak Park

After worship and a brief coffee hour on **Sunday, March 9**, drive the short distance to **Building Beds 4 Kids** at 14241 W. Eleven Mile Road in Oak Park for a tour which will begin at 12:15pm. (Please note: the parking and building entrance are at the rear of the building.) This local organization, run by fellow Presbyterians, is a 501(C)(3) utilizing an all-volunteer staff and workforce. At no cost to families, Building Beds 4 Kids provide beds to kids who have no bed to sleep in—often in situations of fleeing domestic violence, foster care, or other family transitions. Over the last two years, two FPCRO congregation members have been serving here weekly, sanding bed frames for assembly by other volunteers. We expect the tour to last until around 1pm. Session recently approved a financial gift to BB4K from our Mission budget. We hope you can join us!

Women's Fellowship Group

The Women's Group will meet at North End Taproom (111 S. Main St., Royal Oak) on **Monday, March 10 at 7pm**. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food. Women of all ages and stages are invited to participate for fellowship, friendship, and conversation.

Upcoming Memorial Services

The congregation is reminded of memorial services for **Hans Jorgensen** on **Saturday, March 15 at 10am**, and for **Vera-Anne Corwin** on **Sunday, March 16 at 2pm** in the sanctuary.

Coffee & Board Games After Worship March 23

Join the Worship and Nurture Committee for a fun-filled coffee hour after the service on **Sunday, March 23**. Bring your favorite intergenerational board or card game to play! We'll enjoy snacks and coffee while everyone is invited to have a few rounds of Guess Who?, Candy Land, Taboo, Dominoes, Spades or other fun games. We'll wrap up the fun at 12:30pm.

Tom & Ruth Kirkman Scholarship Fund for Higher Education

Are you discerning higher education for yourself? Church members who are high school seniors and older are eligible to apply for a one-time scholarship through the Kirkman Scholarship Fund. This fund allows us to award members who are seeking higher education. Most forms of higher education are eligible for scholarships. They are not limited to colleges and universities. It is not necessary to name your place of learning at the time you apply. Award checks will be mailed to the school later in the year. Applications are due by March 31 and are available on our church website at <https://tinyurl.com/mre9zkjx> If you would like more information, please contact Joelle Jarrait at jjarrait@fpcro.org.
