

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

DECEMBER 15, 2024 | 10:30AM

Third Sunday of Advent
An Advent Celebration featuring the Chancel Choir



Honthorst, Gerrit van, 1590-1656. *Adoration of the Child*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=56753>



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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



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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!

CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS' CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

I. Prelude

“Prélude (in the style of J.S. Bach)”

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Joan Wesa, Lorrie Wesa, and Aiko Tsutsui

◇ Hymn (*page over*)

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

Public Domain

Time with the Children

Afterward, children will be taken to Sunday school classes and will go to Sunburst Singers rehearsal at the conclusion of worship.

II. Recitative and Chorus

There were shepherds, at night in that same country, abiding in the fields, and silently keeping their watch by night over the sleeping flocks around them. And lo! An angel of the Lord appeared, standing there beside them: and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid at his coming. And unto them the angel said:

Fear not, oh ye shepherds! For, behold I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born today a Savior Christ, the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall the sign be: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger low.

And suddenly there was with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

Gloria unto God in the highest! And on earth peace, goodwill to all. Gloria unto God in the highest! Praise the Lord! Praise God in the highest! Praise the Lord our God! And on earth peace, goodwill to all.

III. Air

Patiently have I waited for the Lord. And lo! He heard my cry.

IV. Air and Chorus

In my heart I believe, O Lord, that thou indeed art Christ, Son of the living God. He who was to come into this world.

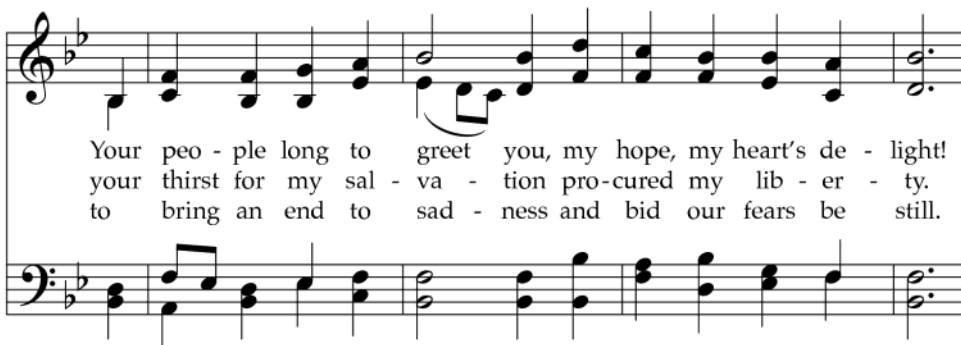
V. Duo (Benedictus)

Blessed is he who cometh, who cometh in the name of the Lord. God, the Lord of Light, he hath shined upon us. Thou alone my God art: and all my trust is in thee. Oh Lord! thou art my God, I will exalt thee, and praise thy name.

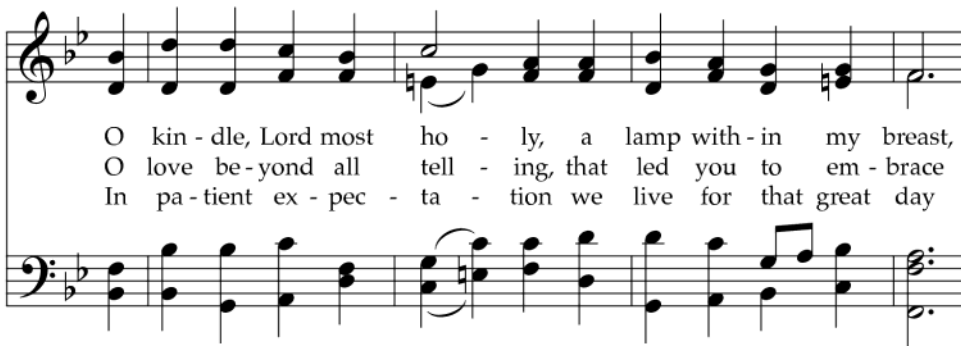
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

VI. Chorus

Wherefore do the heathen clamor? Why do the nations imagine vain and foolish things? Gloria, unto the Father, and unto the Son, and Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

VII. Trio (Magnificat)

My soul doth magnify, doth magnify the Lord: my spirit hath rejoiced God. For my eyes have seen Thy glory.

VIII. Quartet

Alleluia. Ye heavens sing praises, be joyful on earth. For the Lord hath poured his consolation upon his people, and he to his afflicted will be merciful. Alleluia. Ye heavens sing praises, for the Lord hath comforted his people, and he to all that are afflicted will be merciful.

IX. Quintet and Chorus

Arise now, Daughter of Zion! Alleluia. Praise God, praise God in the night, praise him in the first watches of the nighttime. Alleluia. That Zion's true glory might be manifested, that her Savior might rise and shine before the nations. Alleluia.

Praise ye the Lord of hosts, sing his salvation, bless his name, show forth his praise in his holy house!

Rejoice. Ye heavens, and be joyful on earth, rejoice in the face of the Lord, for he cometh, Alleluia.

Rejoice, ye angels, rejoice, all ye nations, now in the face of the Lord, for he cometh. Alleluia.

Prayers of the People 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

Benediction

Postlude

Fantasia on "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" BWV 735

J.S. Bach
Public Domain

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

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 Clinthorne, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

Lily Belle Czartorski, *alto*

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Andrew Wu, *violin*

Dan Stachyra, *violin*

Jacquelin Hanson, *viola*

Andrea Yu, *cello*

Christa Grix, *harp*

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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

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Diane Boving in honor of her parents, Ray and Lois Mosher's, December birthdays.

Chancel Choir Presentation of "Christmas Oratorio" by Camille Saint-Saëns

Today, the Chancel Choir sings the beautiful "Christmas Oratorio" by Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921). Saint-Saëns, just 23 years old at the time, composed the work in under two weeks in 1858 for the church of La Madeleine in Paris where he was the organist. It is scored for five soloists, mixed chorus, organ, harp, and strings. The narrative portion of the text, taken from the second chapter of Luke, appears in the second movement and tells the part of the traditional Christmas story involving the shepherds. The remainder of the texts, taken from John, Isaiah, Lamentations, and the Psalms, reflect upon the meaning and significance of the event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Advent Study: Mondays in December, 11am-12pm

Join Pastor Emma to read the short book *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes: An Advent Study*. Order your copy now! (<https://tinyurl.com/yczak8tf>) Also available on Kindle. This Advent study will help us anticipate the gift of Jesus as we explore the unique ways each of the gospel writers describes the incarnation. Read Week 3, Luke's House, for December 16.

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

Christmas Party on **December 15**, from 4:30-6:30pm at **First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak**. 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)

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MORE



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.

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us on **December 24** at one or both services to welcome the Christ child!

5pm—Family service with pageant and glow-sticks

7pm—Traditional service of candlelight and carols, held jointly with Drayton Presbyterian Church. ***An organ prelude will begin at 6:45pm.***

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Christmas Joy Special Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Offering envelopes will be available next Sunday. Or, mark your gift 'Christmas Joy,' or donate online through our website and designate 'Christmas Joy,' or you may text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give.

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.
