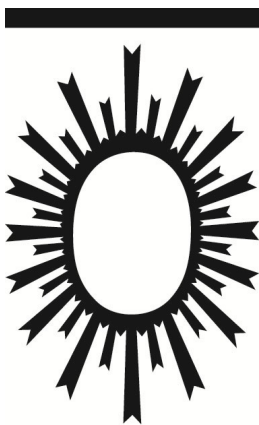


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 | 10:30AM

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany and Dedication Sunday



**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. 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](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org)**



### Giving

Giving online is a fast and easy! Click GIVE at **[www.fpcro.org](http://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**

“Song of Peace”

*Jean Langlais*

©1945 S. Bornemann

**Welcome & Announcements**

**◇ Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

One: We long for the day when the wolf lies down with the lamb, when the fierce gives way to the tame.

**All: We long for the day when the cow and the bear will graze, and their young lie down together.**

One: We long for the day when children can play without fear.

**All: We long for the day when the One who comes in the name of the Lord establishes peace and justice with mercy. As we wait for the day when God will bring it all to pass, we worship and praise.**

**◇ Response Hymn #30** “All Things Bright and Beautiful” *refrain only*  
**“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.”**

Public Domain

**◇ Prayer of the Day**

**All: God, you are the giver of all good things. You generously make the world and create humankind in your image. We delight in your good gifts in creation. We delight in your goodness. May we live with generosity and care toward all your creatures. Amen.**

**◇ Hymn** “We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

Text: Kathleen Moore ©2010 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing Co.);

Music: Hal Hopson ©1983 Hope Publishing Co.

**Call to Confession**

One: God’s steadfast love holds us fast, so that we have nothing to fear. Let us trust in God and share the truth of our lives in confession. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

**Prayer of Confession**

**All: When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and mercy. But sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of this world that your values take second place. We forget to prioritize peacemaking and the building of community. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives from being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we anticipate the day when Christ’s kingdom comes in its fullness.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

# We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom



1 We wait the peace - ful king - dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie  
2 Where is the peace - ful king - dom? When will this new day start?  
3 When wars of des - o - la - tion and hate come to an end,  
4 That lit - tle child shall lead us to walk the cho - sen way,



in gen - tle - ness and friend - ship with - out a fear or sigh,  
We long for peace and com - fort to reign with - in each heart.  
when na - tion meets with na - tion and calls the oth - er "friend,"  
to share the peace - ful king - dom, to greet God's new - born day.



when li - on shall be graz - ing, when snake shall nev - er strike;  
Yet not in our lives on - ly, nor sim - ply in our home:  
still peace in all its full - ness will on - ly have be - gun:  
The child born in a sta - ble is sent to break our chains,



a lit - tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a - like.  
we pray that all cre - a - tion will one day find sha - lom.  
*sha - lom* for all cre - a - tion be - gins with jus - tice done.  
to bring through word and ta - ble the day when jus - tice reigns.

One: In the name of Christ our Lord,

**All: Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

One: Blessed be the Lord our God, who does wondrous things! God's coming in Christ was not to condemn the world, but to save it.

**All: By the grace of Christ, we are forgiven! We are set free to love and to serve! 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: The wolf shall lie with the lamb; the leopard shall live with the kid. These are the promises of peace in the Kingdom of God. Through Christ, we glimpse that peace, even now. 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. Those attending Sunburst Singers will go there after worship and others will return to the sanctuary.*

### **Minute for Mission**

Sunflowers Christian Preschool

*Beth Heitchue  
and Sarah Gibson*



## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

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### **Prayer for Illumination<sup>2</sup>**

**All: Gracious God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. As we read your message for us, let your Spirit show us the way forward for ourselves and our wider community. Let us be drawn deeper into faith to ask questions, to understand, and to live out your love. Amen.**

### **Psalm**

“Psalm 133”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Tallis' Canon*, #715 “Now Let Us from This Table Rise”

***“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**

Isaiah 11:1-9

*Pew Bible, OT pg. 710*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Anthem**

“Come, Peace of God”

*Eugene Butler*

*~Chancel Choir*

*“Come, peace of God, and dwell again on earth, come with the calm that hailed thy Prince's birth, come with the healing of thy gentle touch, come, peace of God, that*

## **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

### **The Gift of Love**

13If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

*this world needs so much. Break every weapon forged in fires of hate, turn back the foe that would assail thy gate; where fields of strife lie desolate and bare take thy sweet flowers of peace and plant them there. Bring selfish lives from shadowlands of loss into the radiance of the Savior's cross, where is that gift so precious, yet so lone, life finds its brotherhood and love its throne. Come, blessed peace as when in hush of eve God's benediction falls on souls who grieve; as shines a star when weary day departs, come, peace of God, and rule within our hearts."*

Text: May Roland ©1935 Whitmore & Smith (Abingdon Press) This Anthem:  
©1966 Lorenz Publishing

**Sermon**

"Lions and Lambs, oh my!"

Rev. Emma Nickel



## THANKSGIVING

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### Invitation to the Offering

**Offertory**

"Creation Will Be at Peace"

Anna Laura Page

~Chancel Quartet

*"In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease; in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace. The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed, their young will play together; a little child will lead. The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw. They will war no more; a child will lead them all. In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease; in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace."*

©1992 Alfred Publishing Co.

### ◇Response and Pledge Dedication

*As we sing the hymn, you are invited to come forward with your pledge cards and offerings. Place them in the basket in the front. If you have already returned your pledge card, we are grateful. Today's dedication includes all pledges received and those still being returned in coming weeks.*

◇**Hymn #688**

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Public Domain

### ◇Prayer of Dedication

One: Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it: all creatures great and small.

**All: You have entrusted us with gifts—time, talent, energy, money—and asked us to use them to build a peaceful community and a world that echoes your kingdom. With thanks and praise we respond to your call.**

One: We bring these gifts you have given, returning your generosity.

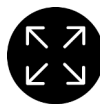
**All: These commitments represent our hope and our trust in you. They bind us to work for goodness in your world for all creatures - to love and serve wherever you call.**

One: We ask your blessing on this, your church, as we seek to follow you.

**All: We ask your blessing on these gifts and especially the people who have made them. May we know your love and may we share our faith through all we do. Amen.**

## 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**



## SENDING

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### ◇Hymn #587

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Text & Music: Sebastian Temple; arr. Jane Holstein ©1967 OCP Publications

### ◇Benediction

### Postlude

“Jig Fugue”

*Dietrich Buxtehude*  
Public Domain

- 1 Call to Worship inspired by “Opening Responses, Return of the King,”  
Wellspring, 2004, <http://wellsprings.org.uk/liturgies/king.htm>.
- 2 From The Worship Sourcebook.

### LITURGIST

Keith Weber

### 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 DelVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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# 587 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

## Prayer of St. Francis

D  $\frac{Bm}{D}$   $\frac{G}{D}$  D  $\frac{Gmaj7}{D}$   $\frac{G}{A}$  D

1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where there is ha-tred  
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where there's de-spair in  
 3 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It is in par-don-

Bm  $\frac{G}{B}$  Bm7 C2 A7sus A7 Em

let me bring your love. (love.) Where there is in - ju -  
 life let me bring hope. (hope.) Where there is dark - ness,  
 ing that we are par - doned, (par-doned,) in giv - ing of our -

Em7  $\frac{G}{A}$  A7 Em

ry, your par - don, Lord, and where there's doubt, true  
 on - ly light, and where there's sad - ness,  
 selves that we re - ceive, and in dy - ing that we're

1, 2  $\frac{F\#m}{A}$  A7 D  $\frac{C}{D}$  *to Refrain* D7 3  $\frac{F\#m}{A}$  A7 D

faith in you. O  
 ev - er joy. O  
 born to e - ter - nal life.

Refrain

G  $\frac{Bm7}{F\#}$  Em7  $\frac{A7}{E}$  Em7 F#m Bm7 Em Em7

Mas-ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so much to be con-

A9 D  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7  $\frac{G}{D}$   $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G Em7  $\frac{A7}{E}$  Em7

soled as to con - sole, to be un - der - stood, as to un - der-

F#m Bm7 E E7  $\frac{D}{E}$  E7 A Em A

stand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Austin Ryan: Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Mark Ryan!

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*We give thanks for the beautiful banners that Joan Wesa created for our All Creatures Great and Small worship series. Enjoy them on the sides of the sanctuary, helping to bring our theme to life!*

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This morning after worship the Generosity and Resources Committee are hosting Fellowship Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall.

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

Fleece & Thank You Service Project at FPCRO **February 23**.

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](mailto: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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SCAN TO  
LEARN  
MORE



### Souper Bowl of Caring

During February, our congregation is participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring! You are invited to bring a non-perishable item for our Little Free Pantry. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, do so by labeling it "Souper Bowl of Caring" or "Little Free Pantry."

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### Blanket-tying Mission Event on February 23

After worship on **February 23**, join the Mission in Service Committee to tie Fleece & Thank You Blankets at Coffee Hour. The blankets are sent to children who are hospitalized to offer warmth and comfort. Plan to welcome the S.T.A.G.E. youth who will be joining us for the event.

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### 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.

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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.*