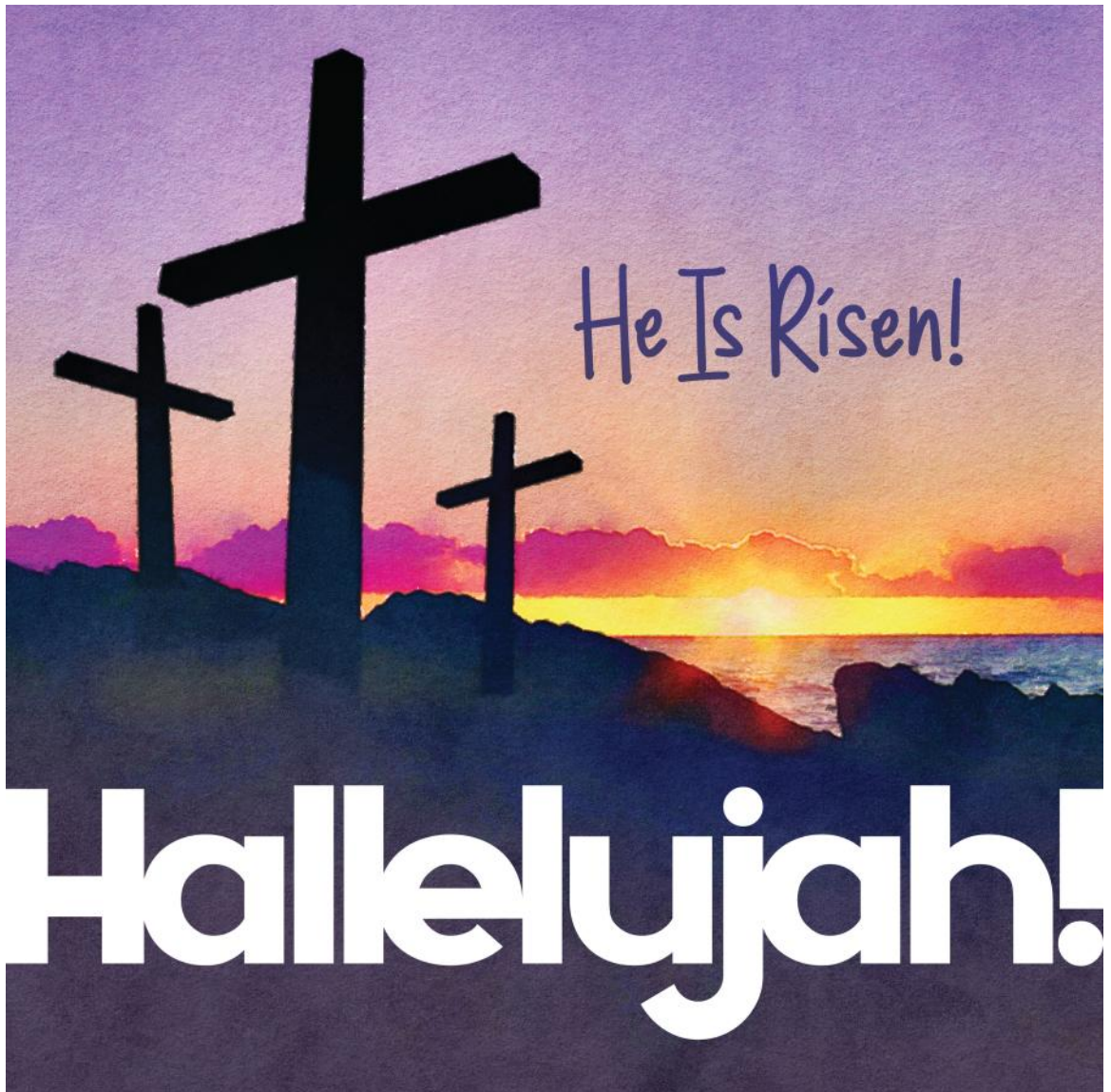


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

APRIL 20, 2025 | 10:30AM

Easter Sunday



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

Today is a Family Sunday when children are invited to remain in the sanctuary during worship.

For young children, the Prayground in the back of the sanctuary is open. We encourage parents of elementary children and older to guide your family through worship as you sit in the pew together.

Our nursery is also available for those who prefer childcare for infants and toddlers.

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

Prelude

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

arr. Robert Hobby

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Welcome & Announcements

Releasing the Alleluias

Just before Lent, the children buried the Alleluia away for the season. We have all been waiting for Easter to release it with joy! As our service begins today, we open the box, set the Alleluias free, and celebrate God's triumph!

One: Our hearts are ready for Easter. We release the *alleluias* and uncover the joy of resurrection. Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn Response #291

“Alleluia #1”

(refrain only)

Text and Music ©1973 The Word of God Music (Admin. The Copy Right Co.)

♦ Opening Sentences¹

One: It is Easter Day!

All: The morning breathes; the garden awakens; the birds sing; the alleluias resound!

One: The dawn breaks;

All: the day stretches; the sky glows; the light has returned!

One: The hills bow;

All: the angels dance; the trees clap; the Good News is here!

One: The stone rolls;

All: the grave clothes crumple; the dawn laughs. Jesus is among us! Let us celebrate together!

♦ Hymn #288

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

This arr. David Johnson ©1976 Augsburg Publishing House

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: When we move closer to God in honest confession we are met with mercy, grace, and love. Because with Christ, we have nothing to fear, let us join together in prayer. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

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

Prayer of Confession

All: **Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our laps and we refuse to believe it. Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope. Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others or tune out the voices of our neighbors. Give us the courage to trust in the wondrous story of Easter, and the good news it brings.**

[silence for individual prayer]

One: With hope in our hearts, we pray,

All: **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

One: The grace of Jesus Christ is present to us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving, when we're shouting and when we're silent, when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear. The news is good and it is for each one of us:

All: **We are beloved! We are forgiven! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

♦Joyful Response "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing"

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Text: ©1958, Ren. 1986 Hope Publishing Co.; this arr. 1977 Vaclav Nelhybel ©1977 Agape

♦Passing of the Peace

One: As Easter people, we share the peace we know in Christ. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Time with the Children

Sacrament of Baptism

Words of Scripture and Presentation

Questions to the Parents and Congregation

◊Profession of Faith

One: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? Do you?

All: I do.

One: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? Do you?

All: I do.

One: Will you be Christ's faithful disciples, obeying his Word and showing his love? If you so promise, please say, 'I will with God's help.'

All: I will, with God's help.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Welcome

One: Lucas has been received into the universal church and into God's family through baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit, he has become a member of the household of faith, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into the body of Christ!

Hymn Response #291

"Alleluia #1"

(refrain only)

Text and Music ©1973 The Word of God Music (Admin. The Copy Right Co.)

During the song, the elder will light the baptismal candle signifying the light of Christ in the child's life. The family will take the candle home and light it each year on Lucas's baptismal anniversary.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

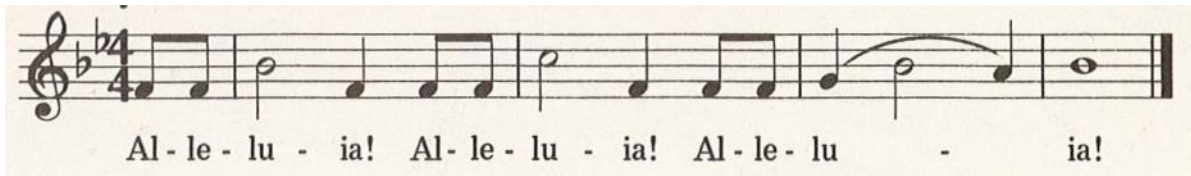
All: God of Alleluias and empty tombs, be with us now as we listen for your word. In a world full of grief, help us hear this story of good news. Let your Spirit help us to sense the hope of Easter, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 118”

Hal Hopson

Please join in singing the refrain upon a cue from the cantor



©1986 Hope Publishing Co.

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:1-12

Pew Bible, NT pg. 91

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“The Day of Resurrection”

Robert Hobby

~Chancel Choir

"The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad, the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory. Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light, and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain, his own "All Hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain. Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin, let all the world keep triumph and all that is there-in. Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend; for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end. Then praise we God the Father, and praise we Christ his Son, with them the Holy Spirit, Eternal Three in One; till all the ransomed number fall down before the throne, and honor, power, and glory ascribe to God alone!"

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Sermon

“Remembering Our Hope”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem

“He Is Risen, Christ Is Risen”

arr. Sean Paul

~Chancel Choir

“He is risen, Christ is risen! Tell it out with Joyful voice. He has burst the three days’ prison; let the whole wide earth rejoice. Death is conquered, we are free; Christ has won the victory. Come, you sad and fearful-hearted, with glad smile and radiant brow. Death’s dark shadows have departed, all our woes are over now; through the passion that He bore, sin and pain have power no more! Christ is risen, Christ is risen! He has opened heaven’s gate; we are free from sin’s dark prison, risen to a glorious state; so a brighter Easter beam on our longing eyes shall stream. Death is conquered, we are free; Christ has won the victory! Amen!

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◇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

◇Easter Litany

One: In the dark before dawn,

All: we believe that God is alive.

One: In the midst of our grief,

All: we believe the Spirit is at work.

One: In the chaos of our broken world,

All: we believe that love is on the loose.

One: For no stone could keep God at bay,

All: and no violence could keep God’s love from us.

One: So today we sing,

All: Alleluia!

One: For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,

All: hope lives.

One: Christ has died,

All: and Christ has also risen! Thanks be to God!

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

◇Hymn #295

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

This arr. S. Drummond Wolff © 1987 Concordia Publishing House

◇Benediction

Postlude

“Carillon De Westminster”

Louis Vierne

©1927, ren. 2008 Editions Henry Lemoine, Paris

1 Portions of today's liturgy were adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 22, 2017 and from Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.



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.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Jason Draper
Dan Head
Hiroaki Kimishima
Don Bilger
Dustin Freeman
Patricia Fisher

LITURGIST

Sally Gilreath

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 Clinthome, *baritone*
Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*
Olivia Donnel, *soprano*
Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming S.T.A.G.E. Meetings

Regular meeting at FPCRO **April 27**, regular meeting at FPCB **May 4**, Flower Sale at Greenfield **May 17**. 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



Annual Flower Sale Orders Due Today!

Our final fundraiser of the year, the Annual Flower Sale, is ready for your orders! All orders will be made online with the Google order form using this link: **<https://forms.gle/6DTR2V7th5YwaAP39>**

Orders must be made by 2pm TODAY, Sunday, April 20. Late orders cannot be accepted. Order pick up is **May 17 from 12-2pm** at Greenfield Presbyterian Church.

Lenten Devotional Discussion

Mark your calendar for **7pm** on **Tuesday, April 22** for an evening to discuss the Lenten Devotional, after we've had a chance to enjoy all the entries. Come to share about the process of writing your entry. Come to talk about the insights you gained in reading the entries throughout the season.

Buy Nothing Free Sale in April

In partnership with local Buy Nothing groups, we're hosting another free sale where every item is free! The event will take place in our parking lot. You can sign up to bring your car with "gifts" for church and neighborhood shoppers.

- **Date:** Saturday, April 26th, 2025
- **Time of event for shoppers:** 10am-12pm
- **Arrival time for gifters to set-up:** 9:30am until 10am
- **Rain date:** Saturday, May 3, 2025

Sign up to bring gifts: **<https://bit.ly/4b6FUgz>**. We need a few volunteers to host the event. If you can help, sign up using this link: **<https://bit.ly/3QkQNIk>**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Children and Youth Service Rehearsal on April 27

For families of children and youth participating in the service on May 4, please plan to join us in the sanctuary for a rehearsal from **11:30am until about 12 noon on Sunday, April 27**. Questions? Ask Pastor Emma.

Spring Grounds Clean-Up

The House and Grounds Committee invites you to join us **Saturday, May 3 from 9am-12pm** as we prepare the church's grounds and garden beds for the upcoming spring and summer growing seasons. Bring your gloves and gardening tools as many hands do make light work taking care of the church grounds.

Congregational Meeting on May 4

There will be a congregational meeting on **Sunday, May 4** in the sanctuary following the worship service for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, and at-large nominating committee members. All members are encouraged to attend!

Mom's Gathering on May 9

Moms of kids through elementary age are invited to a Moms Night Out! Celebrate Mother's Day early with other moms and swap stories of endless Spirit Weeks, trade secrets of chore charts and potty training and laugh over tales of Kids Say the Darndest Things! We will join together at **Vinsetta Garage on Friday, May 9 at 6:30 pm**. Audrey Frieberg will be making reservations: please signup with this link **<http://bit.ly/421EWiW>** so we know you are coming. Get in touch with Audrey if you think you'll arrive late or have any questions.

Vacation Bible School, June 23-27, 2025

True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Visit **<https://tinyurl.com/bdz75edh>** and register today! **Volunteer at True North VBS:** This is a wonderful week of sharing God's word with our church children and the children of our community. We are looking for volunteers for a variety of areas. Not only do we need helpers during the event, but also helpers for planning and designing sets and props. Please visit our Sign-up Genius at **<https://tinyurl.com/m55mvbt>** to join in on the fun!



Spirituality | Service | Sharing