

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

OCTOBER 6, 2024 | 10:30AM

World Communion 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.
- 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)



SCAN ME

## 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!



## GATHERING

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

### Prelude

“Partita on *Gather Us In*”

*Rebecca Groom te Velde*

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### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊ Call to Worship

One: Our ancestors wandered in the desert; lost, without direction.

**All: Yet still they sought the Holy One.**

One: We wander in our own wilderness,

**All: and still we come, we gather, we seek God.**

One: Here we are, Holy One, gathered from all corners of the world,

**All: come to worship and adore you.**

#### ◊ Hymn (*page over*)

“Your Endless Love, Your Mighty Acts”

#### Call to Confession<sup>1</sup> and Kyrie Eleison

One: When we reflect on the goodness and majesty of God, we cannot help but recognize our own frailty. And yet, God cares for us. Emboldened by God’s love, we can be honest in confession, assured already of God’s grace. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

#### Prayer of Confession

**All: Lord, your desire is for us to focus our eyes and hearts on you. And yet too often, like those before us, we lose our focus. We turn away, focusing instead on ‘golden calves,’ whether they are iPads or football teams, achievements or fancy things, celebrities or bank accounts. Lord, forgive us as you forgave your people. Help us to realize when we turn from you. Help us make the effort to return back to you.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Trusting in your goodness, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

# Your Endless Love, Your Mighty Acts

(Psalm 106)



1 Your end - less love, your might - y acts sur -  
2 Our reb - el fore - bears rare - ly grasped your  
3 Be - fore a gold - en calf they bowed— an  
4 But when they spurned the prom - ised land, you  
5 Yet those whom once you sold in wrath, in



pass what words can tell; Lord, may the joys your  
mer - cy or your might; we need your mer - cy,  
i - dol in your place!— un - til, by Mo - ses'  
made your an - ger plain: they wan - dered long on  
mer - cy you re - stored; may we, like them, be



peo - ple know be mine to share as well.  
just like them: we, too, do wrong not right.  
faith - ful prayer, you drew them back to grace.  
des - ert paths, and served the Baals a - gain.  
gath - ered in to thank and praise you, Lord.



## Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news: our sin is forgiven! We are made one with Christ and with each other.

**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: We need not live in fear, but embrace the peace that 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

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: God of wisdom, you know the voices inside and out that distract us. You know the words we need to hear. By the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us now to receive your holy, life-giving Word. Amen.**

### Psalm

“Psalm 106”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *St. Peter*, #603 “In Christ There is No East or West”

*“The chosen ones, from bondage freed, were sheltered in Thy fold;*

*With hands unmoistened by the sea, they cast an ox of gold.*

*The righteous remnant of their tribe redemption claimed from Thee;*

*When my own judgement shall be due, be gracious unto me.”*

Paraphrase of Psalm 106 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### Scripture Reading

Exodus 32:1-14

*Pew Bible, OT pg. 86*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Anthem**

“Forevermore”

Dan Forest

~Chancel Choir

*“Father, Son and Holy Spirit, word of God, the cornerstone, yesterday, today, forever, seated on his heavenly throne. In this world that God created, broken by the fall of man, god remains the sure foundation, steadfast and unshakable, forevermore. O God, our help in ages past, pour hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home. God will not forget his promise ever faithful to remain, never to forsake or leave us, by our side both night and day. Our tomorrows hold no secrets that the Father does not know; we can trust him, ever working for his glory and our good, forevermore. Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure. Praise the author of creation, of the world and all it holds; word eternal, standing firm our God is God forevermore. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be Thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home. Forevermore!*

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## **Sermon**

“To Serve God First”

Rev. Emma Nickel



## **THANKSGIVING**

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### **Invitation to the Offering**

#### **Offertory**

“O Lord, Whose Mercies Numberless”

G.F. Handel

~Bryan Clinthorne

*“O Lord, whose mercies numberless o’er all Thy works prevail. Though daily we Thy laws transgress, Thy patience cannot fail. If yet our sins remain before Thee, let Thy love our lives control. Now, Lord, within us repentance see, and come to heal each wounded soul.”*

©1961 Lawson-Gould Music Publishers, Inc.

#### **◇ 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

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

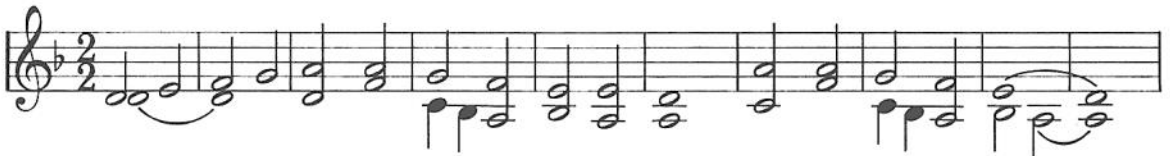
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

One: There is nothing more right than to give you thanks and praise... singing forever 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: We thank you for your son Jesus...Great is the mystery of faith:

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

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us...We continue our prayer as Jesus taught us, saying:

### **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. 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.*

**Communion  
Hymn #704**

"We Meet as Friends at Table"

Text: Brian Wren; Music: Hal Hopson ©1996 Hope Publishing Co.

### **Prayer After Communion**

**All: Majestic and eternal God, you have fed us with the bread of life and satisfied us with the cup of salvation. As we rise from this table, may we remember its expanse, and our connection to our siblings in Christ around the globe. Make us instruments of your peace and messengers of your love in thought, word, and deed. Make us one with you and all of creation through the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**





# SENDING

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## ◇ Hymn (*page over*)

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Public Domain

## ◇ Benediction

## Postlude

“Holy Manna”

*arr. Wilbur Held*  
©1972 Augsburg Fortress

1 Today’s Call to Confession, Prayer for Illumination, Prayer of Dedication and Communion liturgy are adapted from Stephanie Sorge, *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2024 and are used by permission

### LITURGIST

Melissa Ross

### 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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*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.*

# 435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness  
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures



of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,  
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal



which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's  
is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more



sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place  
faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-



where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Harry Popko in memory of his mother and father, Virginia and Egnatz Popko.

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### S.T.A.G.E. Service Project Today!

Middle and high school youth are invited to join us from **4:30-6:30pm today, October 6** at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. We'll be writing letters to our homebound church members from our different congregations connecting with our October focus word *Fellowship!* As always we will have games, food, and fun! Please RSVP asap here:

**<https://tinyurl.com/2ckv9jex>**. *S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) is a collaborative youth ministry for middle-and high-school youth. Meetings are on select Sundays at one of our collaborating churches. Scan the QR code for more information.*



### S.T.A.G.E. Youth Fundraiser—Mission: Possible

This fundraiser goes directly to support the summer high school mission trip and the middle school *Friends Reaching Out for God* (F.R.O.G.) week. The format is simple—in the lobby, see the board with envelopes showing different dollar amounts on them. Pick the one that's right for you, fill the envelope with a donation for that amount (cash, or check payable to S.T.A.G.E. Youth ministry), then turn in the envelope to the front desk. Thank you for your support!

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### Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Group is gathering at Bagger Dave's in Berkley (2972 Coolidge) at 7:30pm on **Monday, October 7**. Join us for some wide-ranging conversation. If you can't make it at 7:30pm, come at 8pm or 8:30pm and you'll be woven into one of the conversations!

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### Women's Wellness Circle: Sharing Ideas & Experiences

#### Wednesdays at 7pm, October 9 thru November 20, in the Fireside Room

The responsibilities of caregiving for family, friends, and communities, alongside demanding careers or volunteering, often take a toll on women's wellness. The effects may be felt in our mental or spiritual health, or eventually, our physical health. We need to find rest, support, tools, and resources to cope, as we continue to contribute our time and souls to those we love. If we take time to gather together, we can share these tools and resources with one another, accept that we are in this together, support one another, and continue doing these tasks while protecting our wellness. Each week we'll share and discuss a scheduled topic, but also check in with one another to gauge our individual "okay-ness." Facilitated by Heather Gleason. Sign-up here: **<https://tinyurl.com/yc3xjh5t>**

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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, CONTINUED

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### Lunch and Learn, “Barmen Declaration: a Status Confessionis”

**Sunday, October 13 • 11:30am-1pm**

A small minority of German Christians responded to the Nazi regime by writing a statement of faith called the Barmen Declaration, one of the historic confessions of faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA). A *status confessionis* describes a time when the Christian, who is faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ, may have to lay his or her own life on the line.

The Worship & Nurture Committee invites all to lunch, and then to learn why the Barmen Declaration holds importance for Christians like us today. The Rev. Dr. Loren Scribner will present. He is a retired PCUSA minister. He and his wife Sharon worship at the Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church. **Sign-up for the lunch and presentation is required by October 7.** <https://tinyurl.com/4bk8puye> If you would like to have childcare during the presentation, contact Pastor Emma Nickel.

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### Women’s Fellowship Group Meets October 14

The FPCRO Women’s Group will kick-off meetings again this fall in the evening time! 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, October 14 at 7pm**. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food. Let us know you’re coming by October 7 at <https://tinyurl.com/tndej2w5>

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### Trunk or Treat: Decorate Your Car, Volunteer, or Donate Candy

Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is happening **Friday, October 25**. To help make the event a success, we need **decorated cars, volunteers to staff the event, and candy donations**. To sign up to **volunteer or display your car** at the event, <https://tinyurl.com/2jd7tuyn>. In the CE lobby you will find a kiddie pool for the candy collection. Our goal is to fill the pool so that we have enough for over 200 children we expect to attend. **We would appreciate all candy donations by Sunday, October 13**. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may include “trunk or treat” on your donation.

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### Snack Pax Bags

We are preparing to pack 400 Snack Pax bags after worship on **Sunday, November 3**. Mark your calendar now. Before then, we need to **decorate the bags!** Pick up some bags to take home and decorate. They’re in the box in the Christian Education lobby. Please return them no later than **Sunday, October 27**.

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### Serve at Forgotten Harvest

Join us for a day of volunteering at Forgotten Harvest in Oak Park **from 1-4pm on Saturday, November 16**. Activities may include sorting and repacking food, breaking down boxes, or other needs. We are looking for 35 volunteers and will serve alongside S.T.A.G.E. Youth group students and members of Drayton Presbyterian. Use this link to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/2upuutjw>. Then look for an email to register with Forgotten Harvest.

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