


ACT  
justly  
love  
MERCY  
WALK  
humbly  
with your god.  
micah 6:8



**May 21, 2017**  
**9:00 am Arise! Worship**  
**Royal Oak First United Methodist Church**  
Pastor Jeff Nelson  
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**Welcome to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church**

Visitors are encouraged to fill out the Friendship Folder along with our members.

**Hearing enhancement devices** and **large print bulletins** are available from the ushers.

\*All who choose may stand

**FWS:** Song printed in black The Faith We Sing Hymnal **UMH:** Song printed in blue United Methodist Hymnal

**Welcome**

\* **Song of Faith** Everlasting God

\* **Call to Worship** Karla Ringeisen

One: We come to this place of prayer,

**All: to bring our hopes and dreams,**

One: We come to this place of grace,

**All: to hear the word of compassion and joy,**

One: We come to this place of inclusion,

**All: to discover how deeply we are loved.**

One: We come with these people called the church,

**All: to live together as one.**

One: All are welcome here!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\* **Song of Faith** Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

\* **Greeting Your Neighbor**

**Welcome and Invitation to Mission**

**Welcoming New Members**

**Time with Children**

**Music Ministry** *The Sound of Silence* Paul Simon  
Brianna Dee Kingsley

**Time of Prayer**

**Call to Reconciliation**

**Unison Prayer of Forgiveness**

One: O God, you scatter our paths with a thousand moments of grace, but sometimes it's hard for us to let go.

**All: Help us loosen our grip and accept the gift of life that surrounds us.**

One: Open us to the spirit of forgiveness that resurrects dreams and builds courage.

**All: Help us loosen our grip on our grudges and grievances.**

One: Release us into humility and into an acceptance of our shared humanity.

**All: Help us loosen our grip on our fears and anxieties.**

One: Weave us again into the life of this wild and wondrous world you love so much.  
Hear our deepest cares in silence.

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Unison Prayer of Forgiveness**

One: The God who made you will not abandon you.

**All: We are forgiven and reconciled.**

One: We are not alone!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **Offering Our Gifts and Tithes**

### **Offertory**

*Stay With Me/Abide With Me*  
House Band

arr. Caleb Williams

## **Scripture**

Mark 15:12-16

*Common English Bible*

After that he appeared in a different form to two of them who were walking along in the countryside. When they returned, they reported it to the others, but they didn't believe them. Finally he appeared to the eleven while they were eating. Jesus criticized their unbelief and stubbornness because they didn't believe those who saw him after he was raised up. He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever doesn't believe will be condemned.

## **Message**

Have We Atrophied?

Rev. Mike Seymour

\* **Song of Faith #2153 (FWS)** I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

## **Blessing**

Dear Friends,

When you come into ministry, you think it's a sprint. That your job is to get as much done as quickly as you can. How much can we accomplish in the shortest amount of time?

Later, you wake up and think that ministry is not a sprint but it's a marathon. What can I do to be in this for the long haul? How can I make a long lasting impact on people and communities? You start to pace yourself differently, hoping to not peak too soon and have enough gas in the tank to finish strong.

Then, finally, the Holy Spirit taps you on the shoulder and says, "Ministry is not a sprint or a marathon - it is a relay." Ministry is a baton that is passed from one generation to the next. You run your leg of the race knowing that the day will come when you have to pass it to someone who will continue the race. It is a great handing off of the traditions and story of the faith that has made the Gospel of Jesus such a powerful force in our world for over 2,000 years.

Today, we welcome back one of the pastors who ran a leg of his ministry here at Royal Oak First. Reverend Mike Seymour served as the Senior Pastor here from 1995 to 1999. He served 40 years in active ministry including a stint as a District Superintendent. Mike is remembered as a friendly and well liked pastor who help set the church on a direction to missional growth. Interestingly, Mike followed in his father's footsteps, Reverend Everett Seymour, who served here as Senior Pastor from 1963-1974.

I am glad to be running the race with the baton that Pastor Mike and so many others have passed along to me. We are excited to welcome him back to Royal Oak First, where we are doing our best to hand off the baton to a new generation of transformed leaders.

Enjoy the race!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.