



January 8, 2017

11:00 am Traditional Worship

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Nelson

320 W Seventh St, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

(248)541-4100 •  • www.rofum.org • office@rofum.org

Welcome to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

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

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship for refreshments.

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

*All who choose may stand

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

Introit

Down to the River to Pray

Sanctus

* **Call to Worship**

One: Baptized to begin lives of faith,

All: we will be witnesses in our communities.

One: Baptized to serve,

All: we will speak up for the voiceless and bring justice to those who have none.

One: Baptized to speak,

All: we will heal and not hurt; we will bless and not curse.

One: Baptized to do what is right,

All: we will not play favorites, but treat each person as your Beloved.

One: The circle is wide enough for everybody

All: Thanks be to God!!!

* **Hymn #723 (UMH)**

Shall We Gather at the River

* **Hymn #70 (UMH)**

Gloria Patri

* **Greeting Our Neighbors**

Welcome

Mission Connection

Time with Children

Dismissal to Sunday school will follow Time with Children. For those attending for the first time, parents should accompany children to the Narthex to meet the leaders and sign in. Children may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

Anthem

The Rose/Lo, How a Rose

arr. Hella-Johnson

Men's Chorus

Time of Prayer

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

One: God, we try to stop Jesus from coming into our lives,

All: for we know how disruptive he can be.

One: He wants us to preach the gospel with our lives,

All: but we prefer to complain how hard that is to do.

One: He wants us to do what is right,

All: yet turning away from the lost and lonely comes too easily.

One: He wants us not to give up until justice is done,

All: but we just don't seem to have the will.

We confess because we know we need to be forgiven by you. Bathe us in the life giving waters of your mercy so we can come up from the water, ready to do good for others, to learn justice, grace, and hope from your Servant, Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Lord.

Moment of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

One: You are God's Beloved. You delight God's heart. Believe this good news, my friends!

All: The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with mercy and peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

One: We give you the glory now and always, God in Community, Holy in One, even as we pray as you taught us, saying,

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 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. Choral Amen.

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory

Coventry Carol
Men's Chorus

arr. Howard Helvey

* Doxology Hymn #95 (UMH)

* Prayer of Dedication

* **Hymn #611 (UMH)**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Scripture

Matthew 2:13-17

When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him." Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I have called my son out of Egypt.*

When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the prophet:

I Remember

Word and Song

Jeff Nelson and Caleb Williams

Message

The Promise

Jeff Nelson

Baptismal Renewal

Song of Praise

I Was There To Hear Your Boring Cry
Beth and Shaelyn Simms

Blessing

* **Song of Faith #2051 (FWS)** I Was There To Hear Your Boring Cry, last stanza only

Dear friends,

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

1 John 4: 7-12

This might be my favorite piece of scripture. It makes it pretty plain. God is love.

"Whoever loves is born of God and knows God."

Unfortunately, many Christians think, "If I read the Bible, I'm born of God; or if I go to church, I know God; or if I obey the commandments, I know God." Yet John says it's simply about loving. Note that the converse is true also. "Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love."

The beginning and end of everything is love. Only inside of the mystery of love—mutual self-emptying and infilling—can we know God. If we stay outside of that mystery, we cannot know God.

Today with a little splash of water we will remember that we have been loved since the beginning. With this little splash of water, we will remember that we have been formed in love. And with this little splash of water we will remember that all we are ever called to do is share the love we have been given with the world.

God is love.

You are loved.

Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff Nelson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.