



January 22, 2017

11:00 am Traditional Worship

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Nelson

320 W Seventh St, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

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

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

*All who choose may stand

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

Prelude

* **Hymn #110 (UMH)** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

* **Call to Worship** Sandra Prokopp

One: As we offer a welcome to stranger and friend and are embraced in their kindness,

All: **we choose to be people of life and blessing.**

As we serve others in God's name and receive blessings from those we do not know,
we choose to walk in God's way.

As we forgive those who have hurt us and reach out to those we have harmed,
we choose to be reconciled to our sisters and brothers.

As we speak words of kindness and stand up for justice in the face of oppression,
we choose to build a world of inclusion and peace.

We are grateful for a love that truly transforms.

Thanks be to God!

* **Hymn #70 (UMH)** Gloria Patri

* **Greeting Your Neighbor**

Welcome and Invitation to Mission

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 can be picked up in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

Anthem *Down by the Riverside* arr. Kirby Shaw
Sanctus

Time of Prayer

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

We are set free by your saving grace, generous God, yet we must confess how we are still bound by our pride and arrogance. We cling to our fears, for they are so familiar and comfortable. Yet there is steadfast love in every corner of our lives, in every shadow we fear,

even into the cold embrace of death itself. You break the bonds of sin and death, calling us to new life through the love and sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us that love which never fades, that life which never ends.

We wait for God, and God does not fail us. God's hope, love, and grace are forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

God in community unite, us as we pray,

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

Concerto in A Minor, Op. 3 No. 6, 2. Largo

Antonio Vivaldi

Amber Evans, violin

* **Doxology Hymn #95 (UMH)**

* **Prayer of Dedication**

Scripture

1 John 4:16-19

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us.

Message

Sing!

Jeff Nelson

* **Hymn #2146 (FWS)**

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Benediction

Dear friends,

“Be Not Afraid”

Those three words appear over 100 times in the scriptures. They are spoken by angels, by prophets, by Jesus and by God. “Be not afraid,” words spoken to people in midst of major life transitions, words spoken to people at the times of uncertainty, at the times of suffering.



These words, “Be Not Afraid,” are also spoken when God calls folks to come and be a part of transforming the world. This is a reminder that sometimes we are afraid to do something different. Sometimes we are afraid to do something big. Sometimes we are afraid of putting ourselves out there. So every time God calls it is almost always accompanied by these three words—“Be not Afraid.”

“Yo, Mary! I know you are an unwed, teenage girl, born to a family of no wealth or power, but guess what? I’d like you to carry my message of hope to the world. What do you think?”

“Be Not Afraid, Mary. I am with you. Together we will change the world.”

I am pretty clear that God is calling Royal Oak First to do some big things. We are called to build a vibrant community of faith where lives are changed. We are called to build a community where all are truly welcome no matter who they are or what they have been through. We are called to build a movement that cares for the poor, protects and uplifts children, inspires youth, visits the sick and shut-in and makes God’s love known through the surrounding area. And guess what? You are a part of what God is doing here! God is calling YOU—yes you—to join this movement.

So, won’t you join us?

No need to be afraid. God is on this journey with us!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff Nelson". The signature is written in a light blue or grey color on a white background.