

HERE'S TO THE FOOLS WHO DREAM.

RYAN GOSLING EMMA STONE

LA LA LAND

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WHIPLASH



February 5, 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 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

Prelude

Just a Closer Walk

Jimmy Smith, trumpet; Liz Smith, vocals;
Phil Kelly, piano; Jeff Pedraz, bass; Adam James, drums

* **Hymn #89 (UMH)**

Joyful, Joyful

* **Call to Worship**

Sue Buxton

One: Lift your voices to God.

All: **We call on the One who promises to hear us.**

In life, in death, in every moment, God deals graciously with us.

We rejoice in the One who saves us.

We will break the Bread of life in thanksgiving to God.

We will lift the Cup of salvation, drinking deeply from it.

For this is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

* **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.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Eloise Simone Erard

Child of Ashley and AJ Erard

When instructed, the congregation responds:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you, in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church, by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Time of Prayer

Call to Reconciliation

Unison Prayer of Forgiveness

Gracious God, we are surrounded by a variety of gods who demand our worship, from plastic cards to websites, from handheld devices to stock options. We believe that work is life, that wealth sustains us, and that success is the air we breathe.

Forgive us, God of mercy, and call us to life through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

Despite everything we do, God loves us. This is why we can dare to hope.

We will witness to this hope in every word we speak and to every person we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

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

River in Judea
Sanctus Choir

arr. John Leavitt

* Doxology Hymn #95 (UMH)

* Prayer of Dedication

Scripture

Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the one who is first over all creation, because all things were created by him: both in the heavens and on the earth, the things that are visible and the things that are invisible. Whether they are thrones or powers, or rulers or authorities, all things were created through him and for him.

He existed before all things, and all things are held together in him. He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the one who is firstborn from among the dead so that he might occupy the first place in everything. Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in him, and he reconciled all things to himself through him—whether things on earth or in the heavens. He brought peace through the blood of his cross.

Message

La La Land

Jeff Nelson

Service of Holy Communion

Communion Anthem

Amazing Grace/Pachelbel's Canon
Angelus Choir

arr. Jean Anne Shafferman

* Hymn #620 (UMH)

One Bread, One Body

* Benediction

* Postlude

There Is No Greater Love

Isham Jones/Marty Symes

Dear friends,

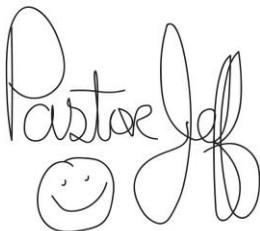
I have to make a confession: our family's favorite television show is Survivor. That's right, the show that pits 20 people against each other and every three days someone is voted off the island. This goes on until only one person is left standing and that person is named the winner. We love it!

We love the back-biting. We love the strategizing. We love the flip-flopping and the two-facing. We love the alliances and trying to figure out who is "in" and who is "out." It feels like the middle school lunchroom all over again. Usually the weak and the old get picked off first. The weird and different don't usually make it too far either. Minorities are often singled out and seldom make it to the end. It is full of drama. There is very little that is socially redeemable about it and we love every minute of it!

Survivor may make for great television, but it makes for terrible church. Unlike Survivor, where the goal is to whittle down the community until only a few are left, the church draws the circle wide enough to include more than it did the day before. Unlike Survivor, the church honors the weak and elderly, sees differences as a strengths and believes that the love of God is present to all, no matter their color, gender, sexuality or physical ability. The church "wins" when everybody gets to stay.

We will practice that today in the two sacraments of the church. We will baptize Eloise Erard at the 11:00 service on Sunday. We will expand the circle to include this little one in our community. We will say to her, "We will make room in our community for you." Then, at all three services this weekend we will be receiving Holy Communion. This is an invitation for everybody to come. All are welcome. God invites all people to come.

I believe that community is the central expression of our faith, and I'm glad that this weekend we get to practice it a lot!

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.