



**I'd Rather See a Sermon**

**Matthew 22:36-40**

**August 7, 2016**

**11:00 am Traditional Worship**

**Royal Oak First United Methodist Church**

Sr. Pastor: Rev. Jeff Nelson

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# Celebration of Worship

August 7, 2016

Traditional Worship

## Welcome to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Visitors are encouraged to fill out the Friendship Folders along with our members during the Ritual of Friendship and join us in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship following worship.

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

\*All who choose may stand

\*\*\*\* Late arrivals may be seated

### **Prelude**

“Toccata in G Minor”

Johann Pachelbel

### **Choral Offering**

“Let the Name of the Lord Be Praised”

Jack Schraeder

ROFUM Men’s Chorus

### \* **Call to Worship**

Leader: Now is the moment of grace. This is the hour of blessing.

**Community: Today is the day of new beginnings. We walk this path of new life.**

Leader: Already joy is abounding, and love is overflowing. For this is the day that the Lord has made!

**Community: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: We are a church for all people!

**All: We are a church for all people!**

### \* **Hymn #567 (UMH) “Heralds of Christ”**

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### \* **Passing of the Peace**

### \* **Fellowship Hymn** “Spirit Song” (Hymnal #347) (please stand next to someone and join hands while we sing) **Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.** (repeat)

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Commission of Bob Prud’homme and Heather Nowak to Candidates Summit**

### **Ritual of Friendship**

### **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.

# Blessing of Baby Isaac

Music

“He’s Got the Whole World”

## Time of Prayer

Unison Prayer

“Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.

We pray all this in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

Time of Silence

Words of Assurance

The Lord’s Prayer

Bob Foote

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Come, Thou Fount”

John Wyeth

Roger Johnson, Ben Smith, and Gene Robers, soloists

arr. Jack Schraeder

ROFUM Men’s Chorus

\* The Doxology (Hymn #95)

\* Prayer of Dedication

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## Scripture

Matthew 22:36-40

Pew Bible pg. 23 (NT)

## Message

“I’d Rather See a Sermon”

Rev. Jeff Nelson

\* Hymn #438 (UMH) “Forth in Thy Name, O Lord”

\* Benediction

\* Benediction Response

“Love the Lord Your God”

Jim Strathdee

Beth Simms, soprano

\* Postlude

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Helmut Walcha

## Opportunity for Fellowship

in Christian fellowship and support.

Everyone is encouraged to join us in the Narthex. Come, greet one another

I'd rather see a sermon  
than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one should walk with me  
than merely tell the way.  
Edgar Guest



Dear Friends,

Several years ago I was leading a youth mission trip to Memphis. On this trip, one of the students was new to the group. His mother told me that she was sending him on the trip as punishment (sigh...not sure who she thought she was punishing in that moment...him or me?!) It was during our first rest stop that this young man pulled me aside and explained, "Let me be clear with you pastor, I am here against my will! I am not going to cause you any problems, but let me just tell you I don't believe any of this stuff. I am an atheist! Don't try to convert me!"

I told him I understood, that we were glad he was here and that there wouldn't be any arm twisting on my part. And as he turned away from me I said, "I bet I don't believe in the same God you don't believe in...."

That whole next week, that young man was immersed in our community. He worked on repairing homes with us. He ate meals with us. He played games and cards with us. In the evening when we met for singing, prayers and reflection - he joined us but stayed at the edge of our circle. He never said a word during these times.

But when the final night came and students each spoke about what the week had meant to them, he raised his hand and said he had something to share. "I am not saying I believe any of this stuff - I am pretty sure I don't! I just wanted you to know that I had a great week! I had a lot fun. I felt really good about myself. I felt really good about the work we were doing. I think I am going to show up from to time to time. If this is what being a Christian is all about...well, I guess I have something to really think about...."

No one preached to him all week....at least not with any words!

Grace and Peace

Pastor Jeff