

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
WWW.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson; & Rev. Cynthia Kekung Londah

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Pianists: Szuyin Lin, Miranti Mangindaan

Lay Leaders: Mike Herzfeld

Ushers: The Tucker Family

Trombonist: Dave Tucker & Huai-En Tsai

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with anyone wearing a name tag or the Pastor.

*-- Indicates that all who are able may stand –
Bold Letters Indicate congregational response

GATHERING

Prelude

Joy to the World

G.F. Handel

Welcome

*Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

#119

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Christ Candle Prayer:

Faithful God, into the world's chaos, you bring your holy son. Renew us in your spirit, that we may dance in this glorious gift. A baby son, a messiah, a prince of peace for the whole world. Amen.

Prayer

***Hymn**

Joy to the World

#134

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Announcements (See pages 7-9 in purple)

*Hymn

The First Nowell

#147 (vs. 1,2,4,6)

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (*Refrain*)

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Refrain*)

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. (*Refrain*)

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination

1st Reading

Luke 2: 8-14

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of

great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

2nd Reading

Luke 2: 15-20

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying, and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Homily

Christmas Joy Offering

Christmas Breeze

Huai-En Tsai

Invitation to Light Candles

***Hymn**

Silent Night, Holy Night

#122

- 1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!**

3. **Silent night, holy night!**
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
4. **Silent night, holy night!**
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Benediction

Postlude

O Come All Ye Faithfull

John F. Wade





All RPC Members are welcome & encouraged to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 7, 2024 following worship service, to review a number of important governance and oversight decisions.

The meeting will be held in the Calvin Room, moderated by Pastor Susan, and will review key topics:

- ✚ Review and approval of Pastor Susan's Terms of Call for Calendar Year 2024 (Pastor Susan will excuse herself for this discussion)***
- ✚ Election of some officers for term-limited vacancies. (Please consider your willingness to participate in the governance and mission of RPC through the Session, Deacons, and Trustees.)***
- ✚ Highlights of the 2024 Budget that was approved by Session at their December 20th meeting. This is an important discussion as we continue to invest in our future!***

This meeting is a Potluck, please bring a side dish to share if you are able! RPC will provide the sandwiches/entrée. Nursery coverage will be provided.

Nursery Care: Professional childcare workers are available to care for your children during the worship service. They are CPR-trained and have undergone full criminal background checks. The nursery is colorfully decorated and stocked with age-appropriate toys, changing tables, cribs, and childcare supplies. Speak to one of the ushers if you need help placing your child in the care of our wonderful workers.

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

We pray for: the Macomber family and all who are traveling. Betty Harbaugh and her family as they grieve the passing of her granddaughter Michelle. Mason Dencker; Bernice Brown in the recent passing of her sister Betty and her upcoming cataract surgery; Jeff Taylor (Bob Taylor's son) who has recently been diagnosed with melanoma; Barbara Grewe; Bernice Brown 's family member, Evan; Carine Nouna request: Sere, Ruth, and Esame (Shaney), Susan's friend Ann who is receiving chemotherapy to treat lung cancer; Verlin Morton (Pastor Doty's husband).

Our Homebound:

❖ *Beth McDonald (Landfair), Bill Landfair and Nancy Webert.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Christmas Joy Gift – Collected until Sunday
January 7th*

Christmas Joy is a PC(USA) collection that helps support past, present, and future leaders in the Presbyterian Church. 50% of the gift assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. 50% of the gift makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. You can contribute to this collection by using the Christmas Joy envelopes in the pews, or by giving in-person or electronically and marking your gift for Christmas Joy.



*This Evening! December 24th at 5:00 pm.
Evening Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We will combine services with Emanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church (EIPC). Children and Adults alike are welcome to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, during a worship service filled with carols and candlelight.*

THOSE SERVING TODAY SUNDAY, DEC. 24th,

10:30 AM

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

***Advent Wreath Reading: The Jung/Wolff
Family***

Soloist: Imani-Grace Cooper

Trombonist: Huai-En Tsai

Violinist: Shu-Ting Yao

Pianist: Szuyin Lin

Lay Leader: Joel Masselink

Ushers: Rachel Jung & Pat Wolff

Fellowship: Pat Wolff

Counters: Hold for 5:00 pm

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

THOSE SERVING THIS EVENING

SUNDAY, DEC. 24th, 5:00 PM

Combined service with EIPC

***Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson &
Rev. Cynthia Kekung Londah***

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

***Advent Wreath Reading: The Tucker
Family***

Soloist: Imani-Grace Cooper

Trombonist: Huai-En Tsai

***Pianist: Szuyin Lin; Miranda
Mangindaan***

Lay Leader: Mike Herzfeld

Ushers: The Tucker Family

Counters: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DEC. 31st

1st Sunday of Christmas

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Lay Leader: Mary Ann Eull

Ushers: Mike Herzfeld & Ann Kelly

Fellowship: Can you help?

Counters: Anne & Jack Baur

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



Rockville Presbyterian Church is a member of the More Light network of Presbyterian churches. We welcome everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability or marital status. We also welcome and encourage the full participation of persons without regard to sexual orientation.