

August 13, 2023
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Guest Pastor: Rev. Harry Stock

Pianist: Howie Jung

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Mary Ann Eull

Ushers: Kathy & Phil Ruxton

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.

Bold Letters Indicate congregational response.

*-- Indicates that all who are able may stand.

GATHERING

Prelude

O Day of Rest and Gladness

C. Wordsworth

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We gather this morning to worship our God who inhabits our world.

We gather this morning to worship our God who indwells our lives.

We need not look up to find God,

we need only to look around us at our neighbors.

To find God we need only to look within ourselves,

beyond ourselves and into the eyes of another.

We need not listen for distant thunder to find God,

we need only to listen to the music of life and to the words of children.

To find God we need only to listen to the questions of the curious,

and to the rhythm of the heartbeats that surround us.

We worship our God who inhabits our word.

We worship our God who indwells our lives. Alleluia and Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

#36

**1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.**

**In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.**

**In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Prayer of Invocation

God of love and mercy, in the quiet peace of morning we gather in this holy place to sing our praise to you and to be fed and touched by your gentle Spirit. We offer grateful thanks for the gift of rest and renewal. We pray that through our worship we may be recreated in your likeness once more. Let your Spirit enter our lives and feed us this day, that the shadows of our souls may be strengthened and our hearts pierced by the brilliance of your Light. Let all of our thoughts be transformed into expressions of beauty so that we may reflect your uncompromising love. We pray this through the One in whose life we live. Amen.

Call to Confession:

On this day of celebration, when we feed and focus on life and hope, we may not be ready for the good news unless we first remove the barriers to our receiving it. Bring now your fears and doubts, your broken relationships and failed promises. Confess all before God who hears and forgives.

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

Assurance of Pardon

The feast of God is designed to satisfy not our physical appetites but our hunger and thirst for righteousness. We have set a table here this morning and in doing so a place has been reserved for each of you. Jesus Christ now says to you that you are His

Beloved, and having made your confession in truth, your transgressions are forgiven, and when you receive the bread and the cup, do so in witness to your life in Him and your communion with one another. Alleluia and Amen.

***Response in Praise**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#39

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

THE WORD

Children's Sermon

Prayer of Illumination

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear only what is read, and make us hunger for what we hear, that we may be strengthened to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 104:10-15

God makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.
They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.
God waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.
He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:
wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.

Gospel Reading

John 6:51-58

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to

eat?" Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

To Eat is to Live

Rev. Harry Stock

***Unity Hymn**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

#65

**1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.**

**3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.**

RESPONDING

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Church offerings can be made electronically through our website:
www.Rockvillepres.org *or by scanning our QR code with your phone.*

QR code



*Call for the Offering

Jesus gave life itself as an offering for our transgressions. What shall we give in thanksgiving for life and salvation? Let us worship our God with our gifts and through lives invested in service to God and one another.

Offertory

My Life Flows On

Robert Lowry

*Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, may your will be realized through these gifts that are dedicated to your service. May the act of giving strengthen our commitment to the causes for which Christ died and involve us in the acts of compassion by which He lived. Amen.

*The Heidelberg Catechism of 1562 (excerpt)

(PC-USA *Book of Confessions*)

What is my only comfort, in life and in death? That I belong -- body and soul, in life and in death -- not to myself, but to my faithful savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of sin; that he protects me so well that without the will of God in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Prayers of the People

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

***Sending Hymn** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* #327

1 From all that dwell below the skies,
let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.

2 In every land begin the song,
to every land the strains belong:
In cheerful sound all voices raise
and fill the world with joyful praise.

3 Eternal are thy mercies, Lord,
Eternal truth attends thy word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore.
till suns shall rise and set no more.

Benediction

Postlude

I'll Fly Away

Albert E. Brumley



ROCKVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrate our new church logo!

The modern design reflects both our historic roots and progressive future while boldly embracing the big red doors that uniquely identify RPC in our community.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

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.