

August 20, 2023
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Guest Preacher: Elder Pat Wolff
Pianist: Howie Jung; **Soloist:** Shinae Choi
Lay Leader Anne Baur; **Ushers:** Beth & Harry Redd

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

Come and Find the Quiet Corner

Shirley E. Murray

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We worship Jesus Christ who inspired us with miracles.

Thank you for miracles of healing.

We worship Christ who leads us through the wilderness of life.

Thank you for miracles of guidance.

We worship Christ who instructs us to care for others.

Thank you for miracles of mission.

We worship Christ whose Holy Spirit protects us.

Thank you for miracles of help.

We worship Christ who is always with us.

Thank you for miracles of presence.

Let us worship the miracle maker, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

I, the Lord of the Sea and Sky

#69

**1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

Announcements (See pages 7-10 in Purple)

Prayer of Invocation

Good and gracious God, blanket us with your holy spirit as we worship and praise you on this glorious morning. We have looked high into the heavens and we know that you are God. We lift up songs, prayers, and scripture to you, oh Heavenly One. In this sacred place, we know that you are with us. In this place, we feel your presence. In this place, we know you more deeply. We are your people. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

God of Love, you sent us a son who was born of miracles and born into miracles. His life was a gleaming mission of service to you. He taught, healed, led, preached, and inspired. What are our lives? Can we teach, heal, lead, preach, and inspire? There is so much that gets in our way. We are afraid to be people born of miracles and born into miracles. Such divinity is terrifying to our small minds. Help us. Forgive our small minds and smaller souls. Make us bold for your miracles.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

Assurance of Pardon

***Response in Praise**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

#591 (x3)

**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

THE WORD

Children's Sermon

Prayer of Illumination

Loving God, on this glorious Sunday, we ask that you quiet our minds, open our souls, and expand our hearts, that we may hear your Word read, spoken, sung, and proclaimed. Let us now fully devote ourselves to worship.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Psalm 77

I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that God may hear me.

In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.

I think of God, and I moan; I meditate, and my spirit faints.

You keep my eyelids from closing; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

I consider the days of old, and remember the years of long ago.

I commune with my heart in the night; I meditate and search my spirit:

“Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable?

Has God's steadfast love ceased forever? Are God's promises at an end for all time?

Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has God in anger shut off compassion?”

And I say, “It is my grief that the right hand of the Most High has changed.”

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old.

I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds.

Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples.

With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; the very deep trembled.

The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; your arrows flashed on every side.

The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

Matthew 20:29-34

29 As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. **30** There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” **31** The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, “Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!” **32** Jesus stood still and called them, saying, “What do you want me to do for you?” **33** They said to him, “Lord, let our eyes be opened.” **34** Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Unity Hymn**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

#700

**1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

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.*



**Give — Rockville
Presbyterian
Church**

www.rockvillepres.org

Offertory

Love the Lord Your God

Jean & Jim Strathdee

***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**

You called forth this church and entrusted it to us, Great God. We bring our offerings to further your reign among us and only you know how adequately we are responding in return for the abundance you have given to us. May what we dedicate here, and the causes that engage our devotion, represent the life you bring to this church.

***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**

Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!

#305

**1 Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us
through the ages long!**

Refrain:

**In bold accord,
come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!**

**2 Long years have come and gone,
and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision,
dream the dream!**

Refrain:

**In bold accord,
come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!**

**3 Let courage be our friend;
let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify
the Crucified!**

Refrain:

**In bold accord,
come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!**

**4 Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er
the ages long!**

Refrain:

**In bold accord,
come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!**

Benediction

Postlude

People Need the Lord

John Zundel

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

New to the Prayer List:

❖ Jim Baur, Jack Baur's brother who took a fall. Jim will have a long road to recovery.

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Pastor Harry Stock is dealing with health complications that arose from a tick bite; Betty Harbaugh's, granddaughter Michelle; Elke Herzfeld; Pastor Susan's friend Judith; Bernice Brown's family members, Betty and Evan; Verlin Morton (Pastor Doty's husband); a family on Facebook and Mark Chittum.

Our Homebound:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

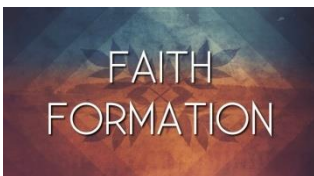
*******Next Sunday, August 27th**, *****

★ Join RPC for our in-person or live streamed service. Huai-En Tsai will be providing the music. This will serve as his audition for the Music Ministry Coordinator position.

AND

★ Pastor Susan will be "**Blessing the Backpacks**". All students, from nursery school to graduate school are invited to bring their backpacks for a special blessing from Pastor Susan and the congregation.

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.



Last chance to take the Faith Formation survey!

We'd love to hear from more of our congregation, especially from those with children! It will help us plan the upcoming year and make sure we're programming for what our community is looking for. The survey is short and easy to complete, and it will only take a few minutes of your time. <https://forms.gle/uZrf3TnvUScRmpSj7>

RPC EVENTS



Saturday, September 2nd – END-of-SUMMER BASH!

Mark your calendars for end-of-the-summer fun! Watch for more details coming soon.



Sunday, Sept. 3rd - "Story and Song Sunday". The worship service will be made up of stories! If you have a poem, song, or essay that tells a story, please submit it to Pastor Susan and the Worship Committee to be considered for this special service.

Monday, September 4th – The office will be closed in observance of Labor Day & will re-open Wednesday, September 6th.



Sunday, September 10th is Rally Day!

This is the Kick-Off of our Sunday School Education year.

RPC will host an Ice-Cream Sundae social featuring a Balloon artist *after* Worship and Sunday School!



City of Rockville Monday, 9/11 Ceremony:

Pastor Susan has been asked to participate in the city's 9/11 ceremony. Each year the city of Rockville holds a remembrance ceremony to honor and remember the Rockville residents that were lost on 9/11. It will include a presentation of colors, an invocation and a benediction from our own Pastor Susan Graceson, remarks from Rockville Mayor Bridget Newton, and a solemn performance of taps. The ceremony is **Monday, 9/11** starting at **9 a.m.** at Courthouse Square Park.



RPC 200th Anniversary Celebrations! – Saturday, Oct. 21st & Sunday, Oct. 22nd. The weekend will include an outdoor festival for the community, games for children, wonderful music, and a special worship service and reception on Sunday morning. *Mark your calendars!*

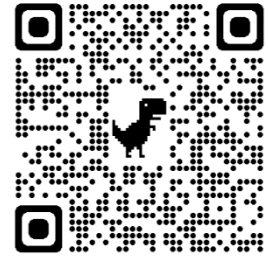


Saturday, October 28th at 3:00 pm - All are welcome at the National Capital Presbytery **Installation of Pastors**. This will be a service of fanfare celebrating all the pastors who have recently received new calls to ministry in our presbytery (including our own Pastor Susan). It will be held at Fairlington Presbyterian Church (3846 King St., Alexandria, VA).

**Pastor Contact
Information:**



www.rockvillepres.org



RPC Facebook Page

Pastor: Susan Graceson
Phone: 571-723-1080
Please call or text anytime there is a
spiritual need.
Email: SGraceson@rockvillepres.org

THOSE SERVING TODAY SUNDAY, Aug. 20th

Guest Preacher: Elder Pat Wolff

Musician: Howie Jung

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Anne Baur

Ushers: Beth & Harry Redd

Fellowship: Patti Sorini

Counters: Anne & Jack Baur

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, Aug. 27th

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Musician: Huai-En Tsai

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Kathy Ruxton

Ushers: Macomber Family

Fellowship: Pastor Susan

Counters: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer



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.