

August 27, 2023
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Theodore Simpson Mason



Sara Reading Mason

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Musician: Huai-En Tsai

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader Kathy Ruxton

Ushers: Macomber Family

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

“Prelude in C”

Huai-En Tsai.

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We gather here this morning with joy.

The Spirit wells up within us!

We gather here this morning with gratitude.

The Spirit fills us to overflowing!

We gather here this morning with humility.

The Spirit grants us peace.

We gather here this morning with hearts for mission.

The Spirit blesses us with grace.

We gather here this morning with insight

The Spirit gives us knowledge.

We gather here this morning with energy.

The Spirit blankets us with inspiration.

We gather here this morning to worship God.

The Spirit is present with us. Let us worship God. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

Come All You People

#388 (3x)

**Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker;
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker;
come all you people,
come and praise your Maker;
come now and worship the Lord.**

Announcements (See pages 7-9 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:

Holy One, you sent your son, and he called the disciples to live lives of service. We know that you call us to live out your gospel with our own lives of service. But we make it so very difficult. We forget you. We forget your instructions. We forget the power that you have placed in us. Our faith falters. We live in fear of what will happen to us if we live our lives for others. Who will take care of us? Who will meet our needs? Who will love us? Who will comfort us? Who, indeed, dear God? We forget that you are the answer to all questions. We forget that you are the answer to all needs. Help our feeble selves. Open our feeble minds. Refresh our feeble spirits.

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 and Blessing of Backpacks

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.

First Reading

Matthew 9:35 - 10:4

9 ³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

10 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Mark 6:7-13

7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. **8** He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; **9** but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

10 He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. **11** If anyplace will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them."

12 So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. **13** They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stained Glass Summer:

The Mason Windows

Rev. Susan Graceson

**1 Go in grace and make disciples.
Baptize in God's holy name.
Tell of death and resurrection;
Easter's victory now proclaim.
Christ's commission sends us forth
to the nations of the earth.
Go in grace and make disciples,
midwives for the world's rebirth.**

**2 Go and follow Christ's example,
not to vanquish, but to heal.
Mend the wounds of sin's divisions.
Servant love to all reveal.
Roles and ranks shall be reversed;
justice flow for all who thirst.
Go and follow Christ's example.
Forge a world of last made first.**

**3 Go in Pentecostal spirit,
many tongues and many gifts.
Feed the hearts of hungry people.
Spread the gospel that uplifts.
Till the day of Christ's return,
as disciples, teach and learn.
Go in Pentecostal spirit:
let God's flame of witness burn.**

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

***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

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

#298

**1 Lord, you give the great commission:
“Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.**

**2 Lord, you call us to your service:
“In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.**

3 Lord, you make the common holy:

**“This, my body; this, my blood.”
Let us all, for earth’s true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children’s liberty:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.**

**4 Lord, you show us love’s true measure:
“Father, what they do, forgive.”
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.**

**5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
“I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.**

Benediction

Postlude

Lovely Day

Bill Withers

*** The Congregation is encouraged to stay & sing the Postlude ***

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Jim Baur, Jack Baur’s brother who took a fall. Jim will have a long road to recovery; 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);

Our Homebound:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***** **Today, Sunday, August 27th:** We welcome Huai-En Tsai who is providing the music today as his audition for the Music Ministry Coordinator position.

Also, students from nursery school to grad 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.



Saturday, September 2nd at 12:00 noon- END-of-SUMMER BASH! for RPC kids and parents! We will meet at **Wheaton Regional Park playground.** Pastor Susan will bring snacks!



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

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



Sunday, September 10th - Rally Day. *This is the Kick-Off of our Sunday School Education year.* RPC will host an Ice-Cream Sundae social and a Balloon artist *after* Worship and Sunday School!

UPCOMING RPC EVENTS



Monday, September 11th at 9 a.m.- City of Rockville 9/11 Ceremony at Courthouse Square Park.

Pastor Susan has been asked to participate in the city's 9/11 ceremony. The city holds a remembrance ceremony each year 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.



Tuesday, September 12th 12noon – 2:00pm Lunch Bunch, The Lunch Bunch will meet at RPC, bring your lunch and join in the fellowship! All are welcome.



Saturday October 21st & Sunday, 22nd - RPC 200th Anniversary Celebrations! 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!**



NEW LOCATION Saturday, October 28th, 3:00 p.m. - Installation of Pastors of National Capital Presbytery (including our own Pastor Susan!) This event is now being held at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church (**610 S. Frederick Ave. • Gaithersburg**). This will be a service of fanfare celebrating the pastors who have recently received new calls to ministry.

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

| <u>THOSE SERVING TODAY SUNDAY, Aug. 27th</u> | <u>THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, Sept. 3rd</u> |
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| <p>Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday</p> <p>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</p> | <p>Songs & Stories Sunday</p> <p>Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson Musician: Shinae Choi Lay Leader: Harry Redd Communion Servers: Mary Williams & Joel Masselink Ushers: Mary Williams & Mike Herzfeld Fellowship: Jie Yu Counters: Amy & Jerry Macomber</p> |



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.