

September 10, 2023
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Musician: Howie Jung
Lay Leader: Kathy Ruxton
Ushers: Sherry Smith & Sean Macomber

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

Where Children Belong

James Ritchie

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We gather to worship.

We come from north and south and east and west.

We gather to worship.

We are rich and we are poor.

We gather to worship.

We are holy and we are worldly.

We gather to worship.

We come from mountains, and we come from lowlands.

We gather to worship.

We come from seas, and we come from deserts.

We gather to worship.

We are faithful and we are struggling.

We gather to worship.

We come together as one people, to place our trust in the Divine Maker.

We gather to worship God. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

O God of Every Nation

#756

**1 O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation
with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.**

**2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,**

**from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.**

**3 Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.**

**4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.**

Announcements (See pages 8-10 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:

Divine Maker, you created all of the worlds within this world. From north and south and east and west, there is not one person who did not come from your holy hands. Yet, we seek to divide your children and

your world. Who are these people who do not look like us? Who are these people who do not dress like us? Who are these people who do not speak like us? Who are these people who do not love like us? Who are these people who do not eat like us? You are the answer to all questions, and to these questions, we hear your voice booming, "They are mine, just as you are mine!" Forgive us when we think ourselves more holy than your other children. Make us see. Make us hear. Make us open. Cause us to love, celebrate, and embrace all of your children.

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 119: 33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; **12** the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; **13** let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. **14** Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Multicultural Love for a Multicultural Church

***Unity Hymn**

My Song is Love Unknown

#209

**1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
O who am I
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?**

2 He came from heaven's throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But O my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!

3 Sometimes we strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to our King.
Then "Crucify!"
is all our breath,
and for his death
we thirst and cry.

4 Unheeding, we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
the prince of life to slay.
Yet steadfast he
to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.

5 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine:
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

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.

***Belhar Confession**

(PC-USA Book of Confessions)

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. We believe that through the working of God's Spirit, this unity is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain. We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin, which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

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*)

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

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*)

Benediction

Postlude

Come, Holy Spirit

Mark Foreman

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

New to the Prayer List:

- ❖ Pastor Susan's friend Ann who is receiving chemotherapy to treat lung cancer.

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Pastor Susan's friend Marni who is dealing with medical challenges from long-COVID; 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

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.



Today! Sunday, September 10th - Rally Day, *This is the Kick-Off of our Sunday School Education year.* This week's lesson is "**Rainbow Promise**" Join RPC for an Ice-Cream Sundae social and a Balloon artist **after** Worship and Sunday School!



Tomorrow Monday, 9/11 Ceremony - City of Rockville

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. The ceremony is **Monday, 9/11** starting at **9 a.m.** at Courthouse Square Park.



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.



Sunday, September, 17th, after the worship service, Faith Formation Session on Loving the Multicultural Church.

UPCOMING RPC EVENTS



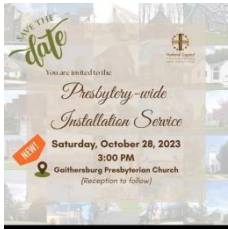
Sunday, October 1st World Communion Sunday celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world.

CHURCH SAFETY

Sunday, October 8th, after worship there will be a “Church Safety Workshop”.



RPC 200 Anniversary Celebrations!
Saturday October 21st & Sunday, 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!



NEW LOCATION Saturday, October 28th, 3:00 pm. Installation of Pastors of National Capital Presbytery (including our own Pastor Susan!): Will be 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

THOSE SERVING TODAY
SUNDAY, Sept. 10th

Rally Day!

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Musician: Howie Jung

Lay Leader: Kathy Ruxton

Ushers: Sherry Smith & Sean Macomber

Fellowship: Ice Cream Social

Counters: Macomber's

Sunday School Teachers:

Mary Williams & Amy Macomber

THOSE SERVING NEXT
SUNDAY, Sept. 17th

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Musician: Howie Jung

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Mike Herzfeld

Ushers: Bobby Kennedy & Dave Tucker

Fellowship: Pat Wolff

Counters: Macomber's

Sunday School Teachers:

Pat Wolff & Elizabeth Dawson

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.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS