

October 8, 2023
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Guest Musician: Samuel Gray
Soloist: Shinae Choi
Lay Leader: Beth Redd
Ushers: Sean Macomber & Bobby Kennedy

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

Nun Bittern Den Heiligen Geist
We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We gather here to witness Christ.

We leave the outside world behind.

We gather here to witness the sacred.

We leave the news of the day behind.

We gather here to witness holiness.

We leave the traffic and the crowds behind.

We gather here to witness the Holy One.

We leave the bills and the checklists behind.

We gather here to witness one another, children of God.

We leave the earthly world behind.

We gather here to witness and to worship.

Let us worship God. Amen

*Gathering Hymn

Here in This Place

#401

**1 Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**2 We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3 Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

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, we come to you with heads bowed low. You have seen our failings. You have known our losses. You have loved and held us through all, and yet, our souls are so limited, so quick to forget. We forget about faith. We forget about your care for us. We forget about your holy ways. We forget about the lessons of Jesus. We forget about you. We hear your voice calling to us, and we let the noise of this world drown you out. Help us. Bring us back to you. Hear us when we cry. Remind us.

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

Sacrament of Baptism

Rev. Susan Graceson

***Baptismal Hymn**

God Claims You

STF #2249

Refrain:

Bonnie, Bonnie

God claims you,

God helps you,

protects you,

and loves you too.

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 80: 7-15

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches; it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.

Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,

the stock that your right hand planted.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had; these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Winning When We Lose

*Unity Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

#450

**1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**4 High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

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 *Shepherd Me, O God* Marty Haugen

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.**

***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.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

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**

Heleluyan, We Are Singing

#642

Refrain:

Heleluyan, we are singing.

Hele, heleluyan.

Heleluyan, now and always.

Hele, heleluyan.

1 Christians everywhere shall sing now and always:

hele, heleluyan.

Christians everywhere shall sing now and always:

hele, heleluyan. (*Refrain*)

2 Town and country people sing to Jesus:

hele, heleluyan.

Town and country people sing to Jesus:

All: hele, heleluyan. . (*Refrain*)

3 People far and near will join the chorus:

hele, heleluyan.

People far and near will join the chorus:

hele, heleluyan. . (*Refrain*)

Benediction

Postlude

Tocatta on *Amazing Grace*

J. Christopher Pardini

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

New to the Prayer List:

- ❖ Barbara Grewe, who is having surgery this month.

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Pastor Susan's friend Ann who is receiving chemotherapy to treat lung cancer and her 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). Members of the Afghan families under the care of Rockville Refugee Resettlement (RRR) and New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA) as they navigate a new country, new language, and new school system.

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.

CHURCH SAFETY

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

Law enforcement officer Ako Cromwell will lead present ways in which we can make our church safer for members and tenants.

UPCOMING RPC EVENTS



Wednesday, October 11th from 5:00-7:00 pm, *Interfaith Works* will host an open house at its Rollins Avenue Office. The address is 981 Rollins Ave. 2nd Floor Rockville, MD 20852. To RSVP, go to <https://www.iworksmc.org/upcoming-events/iw-rollins-office-open-house>

COMMUNITY EVENT - Everyone Welcome!
Blessing of the Animals on the lawn at RPC



Next Sunday, October 15th, at 4:00 p.m., Rockville Presbyterian Church is hosting a Community Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, on the front lawn of RPC.

Bring your pets for a brief prayer service. All pets (even stuffed/toy animals) with their families are invited to attend. Everyone is welcome. Share with your family and friends. We hope to see you there!



RPC 200 Anniversary Celebrations!

Saturday October 21st & Sunday, October 22nd. The weekend will include an outdoor bash for the community, featuring a Moon Bounce games for children, wonderful music from Bach2Rock, and a special worship service and reception on Sunday morning.

Mark your calendars!



Saturday, October 21th from 1:00am-2:00pm, *Interfaith Works* will host a Parking Lot Pumpkin Party at New Leaf Shelter. The "Trunk or Treat" style is a great way to learn more about the New Leaf Shelter, Interfaith Works' emergency shelter. The event is at 5320 Marinelli Rd. Rockville, MD 20852. Register to attend at <https://www.iworksmc.org/upcoming-events/new-leaf-parking-lot-pumpkin-party>



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. Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton, president of Princeton

Theological Seminary,
will deliver the sermon.

RPC 101 Class!



New Member Class, Sunday, November 5th, 11:30 a.m. Want to learn more about the history of RPC? Wondering what it means to become a church member? Confused about some of the strange words the pastor throws around? At a

loss as to how to respond when friends ask you what "Presbyterian" means? This is the class for you! Come and bring your questions.

Pastor Susan and RPC elders will lead a lively discussion of all things RPC. Lunch included. Children welcome.

THOSE SERVING TODAY SUNDAY,

Oct. 8th

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Guest Musician: Samuel Gray

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Beth Redd

Ushers: Sean Macomber & Bobby Kennedy

Fellowship: Baptism Reception

Counters: Macomber's

Sunday School Teachers:

Joel Masselink & Carol Bogezi

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY,

Oct. 15th

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Musician: Howie Jung

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Mary Ann Eull

Ushers: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer

Fellowship: Baptism Reception

Counters: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer

Sunday School Teachers:

Elke Herzfeld & Mary Williams



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.