

October 22, 2023
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Musician: Howie Jung
Soloist: Shinae Choi
Lay Leader: Aimee Ranaivoarijaona
Ushers: Harry & Beth 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

We Are Singing

Zulu Melody

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Praise God in the highest heavens!

We give to God what already belongs to God!

Seek God in the highest heavens!

We worship the Creator,

Hear God in the highest heavens!

We worship the Son,

Love God in the highest heavens!

We worship the Holy Spirit.

Sing to God in the highest heavens!

**We gather in the spirit of the saints who have worshiped here over the past
200 years.**

Worship God in the highest heavens!

Amen

*Gathering Hymn

Shine, Jesus, Shine

STF #2173

Refrain:

Shine, Jesus, shine

Fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow

Flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word

Lord and let there be light!

Lord, the light of your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness, shining

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me (*Refrain*)

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me (*Refrain*)**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me (*Refrain*)**

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:

God of wonder, God of might, you crafted us to be your favored creation. You search our souls to find a resting place. And yet, we claim our lives to be our own. We claim this world as our only home. We claim the status that others allot to us. We claim our accomplishments as our identity. We claim our possessions as our strength. We forget that our very lives, our very souls, the air that we breathe, the bodies where we reside, all belong to you. Craft us again, Holy One. Favor us again.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

Assurance of Pardon

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 96

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;
tell of God's salvation from day to day.
Declare God's glory among the nations;
declare God's marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
God is to be revered above all Gods.
For all the Gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before the Lord;
strength and beauty are in the Lord's sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
bring an offering, and come into God's courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
tremble before God, all the earth.

Say among the nations,

**"The Lord is king! The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved."**

**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
the sea roar, and all that fills it;**

let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading:

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

200 Years Strong!

***Unity Hymn**

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

STF #2237

**As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.
We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers, we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.**

**By our gentle loving actions we should show that Christ is light.
In a humble listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.
As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.**

Welcome New Member

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

All Who Are Thirsty

B. Brown & G. Robertson

***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**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

STF #2238

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways. Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,

Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? *Refrain*

As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes, Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams. *Refrain*

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young, Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung. *Refrain*

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again. *Refrain*

Benediction

Postlude

How Great is Our God

C. Tomlin, J. Reeves & E. Cash

Procession to the Memorial Garden

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

We continue to pray for:

❖ Mason Dencker who has been hospitalized. Family of Leigh Wirth Dencker whose family member Carolin Dencker, age 22, was killed in the Hamas attack in Israel; Sue Anderson's son, Christian; Barbara Grewe, who recently had surgery; 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) members 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.

TODAY!

RPC 200 Anniversary Celebration!



Sunday, October 22nd - We will enjoy a special worship service followed by a reception and dedication of the new Briscoe columbarium bench.



Thursday, October 26th from 7-8 pm, join Interfaith Works for a community conversation about "All Things Energy". More information is available at <https://www.iworksmc.org/upcoming-events>



Next, Saturday, October 28th at 3:00 pm. - Installation of Pastors of the 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.



Next, Sunday, October 29th is Reformation Sunday. Come listen to the bagpipes and enjoy the sermon delivered by guest preacher Rev. Harry Stock. Wear tartan or plaid to the morning worship service.



Saturday, November 4th from 6-10 pm - Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic Fall Fundraiser. Join Community Reach in celebrating the Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic at the Hilton Rockville, 1750 Rockville Pike. Purchase tickets at <https://www.cmrocks.org/events>



Sunday, November 5th at 11:30 am - RPC 101 New Member Class! 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.



Wednesday, November 8th at 7:30 pm. Learn about Afghan Refugees: New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance, (partner of Rockville Refugee Resettlement) is hosting a discussion on to understand the plight of refugees entering the United States from Afghanistan. It is a family event that will feature two Afghan refugees telling their family's story. For more information, contact Marc Sorini at marc.sorini@gmail.com.



Community Reach Thanksgiving Basket Collection: Every year Community Reach distributes Thanksgiving baskets to those in meals. Help us fill baskets! Bring all items to church by **Sunday, November 12th**.

Needed items (for 1 basket):

\$25 or \$30 gift certificate to Giant or Safeway,
 2 boxes of stuffing,
 2 cans/jars of gravy,
 2 cans of cranberry sauce,
 5 lbs of potatoes or a box of instant potatoes,
 5 large sweet potatoes or 2 cans of yams,
 3 16 oz cans of vegetables,
 1 64 oz container of apple juice,
 1 dessert (ingredients for an apple or pumpkin pie, or cake mix and icing).



You can donate money online, or by cash or check. Designate your offering for "Thanksgiving baskets".



Rainbow Place Raffle: The Rainbow Place Raffle is open through **Sunday, November 12th**. Look for RPC as a sponsor of this year's raffle! Buy raffle tickets at <https://rainbowplaceshelter.basket>

THOSE SERVING TODAY
SUNDAY, Oct. 22nd

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Musician: Howie Jung
Soloist: Shinae Choi
Lay Leader: Aimee Ranaivoarijaona
Ushers: Harry & Beth Redd
Fellowship: 200th Anniversary Celebration treats
Counters: Macomber's
Sunday School Teachers: Pat Wolff & Amy Macomber

THOSE SERVING NEXT
SUNDAY, Oct. 29th

Reformation Sunday
Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Guest Preacher: Rev. Harry Stock
Musician: Shinae Choi
Lay Leader: Harry Redd
Ushers: Kathy & Phil Ruxton
Fellowship: Baptism Reception
Counters: Anne & Jack Baur
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.