

October 29, 2023
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Musician: Shinae Choi
Bagpipes: Jeffrey Herbert
Lay Leader: Harry Redd
Ushers: Kathy & Phil Ruxton

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 email the church office at rockvillepres1@verizon.net

Bold Letters Indicate congregational response.

*-- Indicates that all who are able may stand.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Praise the Lord;

praise God, O my soul.

Let us praise God as long as we live.

God has heard our cries,

God has seen our tears,

God has prepared for us a table—a rich banquet.

God satisfies us in the morning with steadfast love,

that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

As we live in the Spirit;

our selfish conceits give way to unity:

for we are one in the Spirit;

one in the Lord.

Then let us worship God with joy and praise,

knowing our salvation is in Christ.

Amen

*Gathering Hymn

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

#31

**1 Let us with a gladsome mind
praise the Lord who is so kind:
for God's mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**2 God, with all-commanding might,
filled the new-made world with light:
for God's mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**3 All things living God does feed;
with full measure, meets their need:
for God's mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**4 Let us with a gladsome mind
praise the Lord who is so kind:
for God's mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.**

Announcements (see pages 9-11 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 who formed us, great artist that you are. You made us in your image and we have moments in which we glimpse the glory of your creative powers within us. But, oh God of all, we have many more days in which we fall short of your holy vision for us. We fall to the ground, filled with doubt and sometimes even rage, inconsolable in our unbelief.

**We call to you demanding to know "Why?"
Crying out to you, "When?"
Pleading with you, "How?"
Raging at you, "Where?"
Railing at you, "Who?"**

Silence these unholy questions in us. Renew our faith. Lead us into blessed confidence in you. Help 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

Baptismal Hymn

God Claims You

STF #2249

(congregation joins the refrain)

Refrain:

**Alaina and Charlie,
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 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;

even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands.

O prosper the work of our hands!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading:

Matthew 22:34-36

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment.

And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reformed, Always Reforming

**1 Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.**

**3 All praise and thanks to God,
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.**

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 Nicene Creed (excerpt)**

(PC-USA Book of Confessions)

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#275

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Benediction

Postlude

Dawning of the Day

Traditional

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

We continue to pray for:

❖ Mason Dencker who has been hospitalized. Family of Leigh Wirth Dencker who's 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.



Rainbow Place

Rainbow Place Shelter Open House Monday, October 30th from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. If you have never seen the shelter before, here's our chance to take a tour and meet some of the staff.

Mansfield Kaseman
HEALTH CLINIC



Saturday, November 4th from 6:00pm to 10:00pm - 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, 11:30 a.m. - 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.



Community Reach Thanksgiving Basket Collection: Every year Community Reach distributes Thanksgiving baskets to those in need. 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.basketraffle.org/>

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, November 25th from 9:00 am to noon - Fall Clean Up.

Grab your rakes and put on your gloves and join us on for the RPC's fall clean up. The rain date is scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00 am to noon.



THOSE SERVING TODAY
SUNDAY, Oct. 29th

Reformation Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Pianist & Soloist: Shinae Choi

Bagpiper: Jeff Herbert

Lay Leader: Harry Redd

Ushers: Kathy & Phil Ruxton

Fellowship: Baptism Cake

Counters: Anne & Jack Baur

Sunday School Teachers:

Elke Herzfeld & Mary Williams

THOSE SERVING NEXT
SUNDAY, Nov. 5th

Communion Sunday

"Fall Back", Daylight Savings

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Musician: Howie Jung

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Rachel Jung

Ushers: Sue & Dave Anderson

Communion Servers:

Mary Williams & Ann Kelly

Fellowship: Amy Macomber

Counters: Macomber's

Sunday School Teachers:

Amy Macomber & Pat Wolff



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.