

November 12, 2023
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Musician: Howie Jung

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Beth Redd

Ushers: Betty Harbaugh & Rachel Jung

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**

How good it is to gather, to hear the Spirit's call.

The Spirit urges us with challenge and change.

The Spirit blesses us with hope.

The Spirit whispers, "Blessing and Grace" come leave your long lists behind.

Draw the water of life to parched lips and be refreshed;

The Spirit calls us beyond old expectations and rules.

The Spirit proclaims, "Blessed children," come be the change and the hope made flesh,

The Spirit tells us to come not to be served, but to serve;

We gather, celebrating the Spirit's brave call,

We gather to celebrate life gifted with grace.

Amen

***Gathering Hymn** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

#700

**1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

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:

Dear God of great abundance, you have laid all of creation at our feet. You have given us this glorious world in which to live, care, love, and flourish. Time and time again, your messengers beg us, "fear not." And still, pitiful questions plague us. What if there is not enough? What if I fail? What if God's care is not complete? What if? What if? What if? We confess these pitiful fears to you, great God of abundance. Give us the courage to live into your expansive vision for us. Free us from ourselves. 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

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 78: 1-7

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;

we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord,

and God's might, and the wonders that God has done.

God established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep God's commandments.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading:

Acts 5:1-11

5 But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; **2** with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? **4** While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!" **5** Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. **6** The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him. **7** After an

interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price." And she said, "Yes, that was the price." ⁹ Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." ¹⁰ Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bold Giving

***Unity Hymn**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

#716

**1 Come, great God of all the ages;
make your earthly mission known;
speak through every deed and person;
let your way and will be shown.
Guide the church to true commitment;
give direction now, we ask;
fit us for the work of building;
dedicate us to the task.**

**2 Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit,
sure foundation, cornerstone;
help us form the church eternal;
may your vision be our own.
Send a message to each follower;
lead all people to your way;
urge us to strong faith and action
as we build the church today.**

**3 Come, great Spirit, in and with us,
tune our ears to hear your call;
through the moving of your presence,
let redeeming love recall
ministry in dedication,**

love embodied in our deeds;
challenge us to do your bidding,
see your purpose, fill all needs.

4 Come, O come, in celebration,
household of the one true God;
in commitment and rejoicing
let us go where Christ has trod;
as we act in faith and reverence,
let us, Lord, the future see;
place us in the church triumphant,
now and for eternity.

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

Here Am I

Brian A. Wren

***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**

When We Are Living

#822

**1 When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.**

**2 Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God; we belong to God.**

**3 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God; we belong to God.**

**4 Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God; we belong to God.**

Benediction

Postlude

You Alone Are Holy

Anonymous

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Prayers for Sere, Ruth, and Esame (Shaney), per Carine Nouna request;
- ❖ 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; Susan's friend Ann who is receiving chemotherapy to treat lung cancer; Jim Baur, Jack Baur's brother who took a fall. Jim will have a long road to recovery; Betty Harbaugh's, granddaughter Michelle; 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.

********* The office will be closed Monday, November 13th and will re-open Wednesday, November 15th.



Last Chance ! Rainbow Place Raffle: The **Rainbow Place Raffle** will close today

Sunday, November 12th. Look for RPC as a sponsor of this year's raffle! Buy raffle tickets at <https://rainbowplaceshelter.basketraffle.org/>



Last Chance! Community Reach Thanksgiving Basket Collection: Help us fill baskets! Items are due to the church today **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.



Tuesday, November 14th from noon to 2:00pm - **Lunch Bunch** - Bring your own lunch and meet in the Calvin Room to break bread together in fellowship. All are welcome.



Sunday, November 19th. Join in a special worship service & reception celebrating Howie Jung who will be stepping down as RPC Music Lead as our new Music Ministry Coordinator begins in December. We will honor and celebrate Howie's talent and dedication to God and Church and RPC.



Saturday, November 25th from **9:00 am - 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 – 9:00 am - noon.

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, December 3rd following worship - **Deck the Halls!** -Christmas is a wonderful time of year - we get to celebrate the glorious birth of Jesus Christ. In preparation for that day, stick around after church on this first day of Advent and help us deck the halls and make our church beautiful for our holiday services. Join in food, fun and fellowship decorating for this special day.

Sunday, December 10th after worship - **Advent Fair** - Everyone is invited to join together as we celebrate Advent with holiday craft making and a service project at our annual Advent Fair in the Calvin Room.

Sunday, December 17th during Worship - **Children's Christmas Pageant** - Come see the kids of RPC dress up in fun costumes and use props to act out a story that celebrates Jesus' birth. It's sure to bring smiles to kids of all ages!

Saturday, December 24th at 10:30 am - **Christmas Eve Morning Worship** - Enjoy a holiday celebration featuring a baptism and filled with music and scripture as we retell the nativity story this Christmas Eve during morning worship.

Saturday, December 24th at 5:00 pm - **Evening Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** - Children and Adults alike are welcome to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, during a worship service filled with carols and candlelight.

THOSE SERVING TODAY
SUNDAY, NOV. 12th

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Musician: Howie Jung
Soloist: Shinae Choi
Lay Leader: Beth Redd
Ushers: Betty Harbaugh & Rachel Jung
Fellowship:
Counters: The Macomber's
Sunday School Teachers:
Elizabeth Dawson & Pat Wolff

THOSE SERVING NEXT
SUNDAY, NOV. 19th

Celebrating Howie Jung

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Guest Preacher: David Tucker
Musician: Howie Jung
Soloist: Shinae Choi
Lay Leader: Rachel Jung
Ushers: Sherry Smith & Pat Wolff
Fellowship: Howie Jung's reception
Counters: Paul & Elizabeth Boyer
Sunday School Teachers:
Elke Herzfeld & Mary Williams



ROCKVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



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.