

November 26, 2023
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Musician: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: David Tucker

Ushers: Sean Macomber & Mike Herzfeld

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

As the Deer

Martin J. Nystrom

Welcome

*Call to Worship

The time to gather is here.

We have come from far and wide to offer our praise to God for God's many blessings.

We open our hearts to God's words of love.

Help us, O Lord, to receive your gifts in gratitude and to live lives of helpful service to others.

In the midst of great difficulties, the Lord sets a table of rejoicing.

Though the world is in turmoil, we will worship and praise God!

Let our lives be witnesses to God's goodness and power.

Let our hearts encompass compassion and service to God's people.

Help us to be your workers and witnesses in today's world, O Lord.

May this time of worship enable us to be faithful and strong for God.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

*Praise the Lord with the
Sound of Trumpet*

**Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute, praise the Lord with the
gentle sounding flute. Praise the Lord in
the field and forest, praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.**

**Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine, praise the Lord in the
dark of night, praise the Lord in the rain and snow or
in the morning light. Praise the Lord in the
deepest valley, praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord; never let your voice be still.**

**Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string, praise the Lord with the
joyful songs you sing. Praise the Lord on a
weekday morning, praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.**

**Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow, .
praise the Lord in the
time of joy, praise the Lord every moment; nothing
let your praise destroy. Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!**

Announcements

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:

Silence is kept for personal confession.

Assurance of Pardon

In the midst of this season of thanks, we reflect on how often we lose sight of the gifts of each day, and how often we lose sight of the Giver. We confess that we are quick in so many ways, yet we are slow to remember God. We are slow to love God. We are slow to help our neighbors. We are slow to give thanks. We are slow to acknowledge wonder. We are slow to cultivate hope. Quicken our Thanksgiving pace, dear God. Forgive our sluggishness.

***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 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In God's hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are God's also.

The sea is God's, for God made it,

and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh that today you would listen to God's voice!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading:

Ephesians 1:15-23

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Giving Thanks

**1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peace-maker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, whom we both scorn and crave.**

**2 Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggared by a soldier's toss,
you, the everlasting instant;
you who are both gift and cost.**

**3 You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our pilgrim guide.**

**4 Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory;
worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our death and life.**

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***Give Praise to the Lord*

#550

**1 Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song;
 amid all the saints God's praises prolong;
 a song to your Maker and Ruler now raise,
 all children of Zion: rejoice and give praise.**

**2 With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim,
with gladness, O God, we praise your great name;
for now in your people good pleasure you seek;
with robes of salvation you cover the meek.**

**3 In glory exult, all saints of the Lord;
with song in the night high praises accord;
go forth in God's service and strong in God's might
to conquer all evil and stand for the right.**

**4 For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,
but over the earth their power shall prevail;
all kingdoms and nations shall yield to their sway.
To God give the glory; sing praises for aye.**

Benediction

Postlude

He Is Exalted

Twila Paris



**ROCKVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



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.



Sunday, November 26, 2023
Welcome to Our Family of Worship
Rockville Presbyterian Church

ROCKVILLEPRES.ORG

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

New to the Prayer list:

Barbara Grewe.

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Prayers for Sere, Ruth, and Esame (Shaney), per Carine Nouna request; Susan's friend Ann who is receiving chemotherapy to treat lung cancer; Betty Harbaugh's, granddaughter Michelle; 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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 Advent Fair - after worship. 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. *You don't want to miss this!*



Tuesday, December 12th 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, 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!

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.



Community Reach Toy Drive: This year, Community Reach plans to provide holiday gifts to 200 families. Toys should be new and for children aged 0-12. Gift cards should be \$25 or \$30 and are for children aged 13-17. Recommended gift card locations are Target, Amazon, Visa, or Mastercard. *Bring toys or gift cards to church by **Sunday, December 17th** to support Community Reach's Holiday*

Distribution.



Sunday, 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. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Sunday, December 24th at 5:00 pm **Evening Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.** We will combine services with Emanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church (EIPC). 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. 26th

Christ the King Sunday
Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Musician: Shinae Choi
Lay Leader: David Tucker
Ushers: Sean Macomber & Mike Herzfeld
Fellowship:
Counters: The Macomers
Sunday School Teachers:
 Amy Macomber & Mary Williams

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DEC. 3rd

Communion Sunday
 Deck the Halls after worship!
Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Musician: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Aimee Ranaivoarijaona
Ushers: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer
Advent Wreath Lighting: Carine and Ivanka Nouna
Communion Servers: Beth & Harry Redd
Fellowship: *Deck the Halls pizza*
Counters: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer
Sunday School Teachers:
 Elizabeth Dawson & Mary Williams