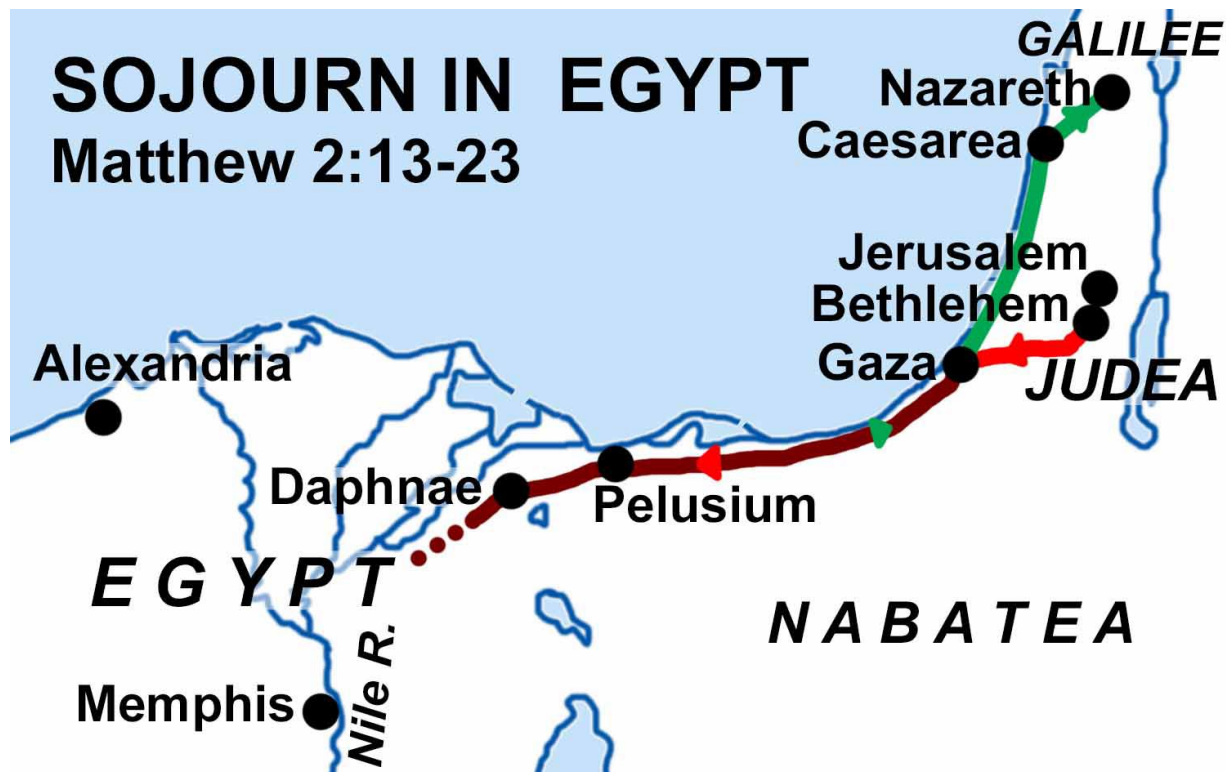


January 14, 2024  
Rockville Presbyterian Church  
Rockville, MD

[www.rockvillepres.org](http://www.rockvillepres.org)



**Pastor:** Rev. Susan Graceson

**Minister of Music:** Huai-En Tsai

**Soloist:** Shinae Choi

**Lay Leader:** Beth Redd

**Ushers:** The Sorini Family

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

*In His Time*

Diane Ball

Welcome

### Call to Worship

We gather as people of God.

**Singing, praying, worshiping together.**

We gather as people of the Christ Child.

**Praising, hoping, seeking together.**

We gather as people of the Holy Spirit.

**Watching, asking, listening together.**

We gather as children of the Holy One.

**Pausing, waiting, wondering together.**

May we be visited by holiness as we worship together.

**Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn

**O Day of Rest and Gladness**

**#393**

**1 O day of rest and gladness,  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm for care and sadness,  
most beautiful, most bright;  
on you, the high and lowly,  
through ages joined in tune,  
sing "Holy, holy, holy"  
to the great God triune.**

2 On you, at earth's creation  
the light first had its birth;  
on you, for our salvation  
Christ rose from depths of earth;  
on you, our Lord victorious  
sent Spirit forth from heaven.  
And thus on you, most glorious,  
a triple light was given.

**3 On you, God's people, meeting,  
the Holy Scripture hear,  
Christ's living presence greeting,  
through bread and wine made near.  
New graces ever gaining  
from this our day of rest,  
we reach the rest remaining**

## **Announcements**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

Holy One, in this season of celebration, shower us with your spirit. As we honor the story of the guiding star, we lift up songs, prayers, and scripture to you, oh Heavenly One. As we linger in the birth of hope, we know that you are with us. We feel your presence. We know you more deeply. Amen

### **Prayer of Confession:**

**Holy One, in the story of Jesus, we see glory and hope, alongside peril and threat. You show us that even your Holy Son was born to face trouble. Forgive us when our expectations exceed your vision for us. When presented with broken dreams, we cry out "why?" When presented with dashed hopes, we cry out "why?" When presented with unmet promises, we cry out "why?" We beg of you, help our faith to exceed our fear. Help our hope to exceed our helplessness. Forgive us when our expectations of this world exceed our trust in you.**

**Silence is kept for personal confession.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

#### **\*Choral Response**

*He Came Down*

**STF#2085 (v 1, 3 times)**

**He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love,  
Hallelujah forevermore.**

## **THE WORD**

### **Children's Sermon**

#### **Prayer of Illumination**

Loving God, in this time of holy celebration, 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 139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up;**  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

**You search out my path and my lying down,**  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.**  
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**  
Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

**If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
**even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"  
**even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

**My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

**In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

**How vast is the sum of them!**

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

**I come to the end—I am still with you.**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 2nd Reading

**Matthew 2:13-23**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

**Out of Egypt**

**1 Jesus entered Egypt  
fleeing Herod's hand,  
living as an alien  
in a foreign land.  
Far from home and country  
with his family,  
was there room and welcome  
for this refugee?**

**2 Jesus was a migrant  
living as a guest  
with the friends and strangers  
who could offer rest.  
Do we hold wealth lightly  
so that we can share  
shelter with the homeless,  
and abundant care?**

**3 Jesus crosses borders  
with the wandering poor,  
searching for a refuge,  
for an open door.  
Do our words and actions  
answer Jesus' plea:  
"Give the lowly welcome,  
and you welcome me"?**

**RESPONDING**

**Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings**

Church offerings can be made electronically  
through our website: [www.Rockvillepres.org](http://www.Rockvillepres.org) *or*  
*by scanning our QR code with your phone.*



**\*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.

**\*Affirmation of Faith:** (adapted from *The Confessions of 1967, PC, USA Book of Confessions*)

**In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self. Jesus Christ is God with man. Jesus Christ is the eternal son of the Father, who became man and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of people. Amen.**

**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**

*All Hail to God's Anointed*

**#149**

**1 All hail to God's anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
All hail, in time appointed,  
your reign on earth begun!  
You come to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression  
and rule in equity.**

**2 You come with rescue speedy  
to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in your sight.**

**3 You shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in your path to birth.  
Before you on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.**

**4 All rulers bow before you,  
and gold and incense bring.  
All nations shall adore you;  
your praise all people sing.  
To you shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend.  
Your rule is still increasing;  
your rule is without end.**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*God Will Make A Way*

**Don Moen**



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.*





**Sunday, January 14, 2024**  
**Welcome to Our Family of Worship**  
**Rockville Presbyterian Church**  
[ROCKVILLEPRES.ORG](http://ROCKVILLEPRES.ORG)

**PRAYERS & BLESSINGS**

**We continue to pray for:**

- ❖ Peg Taboada who took a fall; Betty Harbaugh and her family as they grieve the passing of her granddaughter Michelle. Mason Dencker; Bernice Brown in the passing of her sister Betty; Jeff Taylor (Bob Taylor's son) who has been diagnosed with melanoma; Barbara Grewe; Carine Nouna request: Sere, Ruth, and Esame (Shaney), Verlin Morton (Pastor Doty's husband).

**Our Homebound:**

- ❖ Beth McDonald (Landfair), Bill Landfair.
- ❖

**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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS**



Tomorrow, **Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>** - - the office will be **closed** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



***Save the Date!*** **Mamas-n-Papas Group** will meet on **Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**, at **5 p.m.** in the Calvin Room. This is a new group for parents and kids. Bring a dish to share for a potluck meal.

Music Minister Huai-En will join us for a musical showcase and Pastor Susan will present a short devotion. Contact Pastor Susan for more information.



**Revenues Team:** Our elders recently voted to form this new team in order to identify new sources of income for our ministries. The Revenues Team will meet at least once a month (zoom or in-person) to prayerfully consider creative ways to support God's work in this community. If you think you can enhance this team, have new ideas you'd like to share, or are interested in volunteering your time, please contact Elder Dave Tucker or Pastor Susan to become part of this crucial team at RPC. **All members and friends are welcome! Our first meeting will be this Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.**

**PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount varies with the needs of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, and is a regular expense payable by this church at the spring meeting of presbytery. The amount to be paid this year per communicant member is:

- Electronically
- Cash
- Check

Name \_\_\_\_\_ The Methodist Firm

2024 Pledge envelopes are on the long board **where** the Name Tags are located in the Calvin Room. The Per Capita envelope is the blue envelope in the box. **The Per Capita amount for 2024 is \$48.56**

**SESSION MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> -Session**

**NOTE:** will meet at **5:00pm** at the home of Ann & Jim Kelly, 9605 Falls Bridge Ln, Potomac. Home # (301) 983-4009.



**RPC Night at Comedy Club!!** Need a few laughs? Join RPC friends on **Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**, as we yuck it up AND raise money for Rainbow Place Shelter!

**Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**, A portion of all ticket sales will go to Rainbow Place.

Doors open at **7:00 p.m.** Show begins at **8:00 pm.** Tickets are \$20 each and **advanced purchase is recommended:** [Give a Hoot Comedy Club \(seatengine.cloud\)](http://seatengine.cloud)

Comedian Chris Coccia will perform (Comedy Central, Game Show Network, XM Radio, etc...). Full food and drink menu from La Mexicana Restaurant will be available. Give A Hoot Comedy Club, 16143 Shady Grove Rd. Parking is easy and free.



**Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** after worship – **Faith Journey – Faith Formation Interview.** Plan to stay after worship on January 28<sup>th</sup> for our next faith formation presentation and group meal. This information interviews with members of our congregation are designed to help us get to know each other better and know that we have companions in our own faith journeys. This month we will hear from Huai-En Tsai, our new Minister of Music, and his wife Shu-Ting Yao.

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for organizing this event.

**THOSE SERVING TODAY SUNDAY, JAN 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM**

Second Sunday after Epiphany  
**Pastor:** Rev. Susan Graceson  
**Minister of Music:** Huai-En Tsai  
**Soloist:** Shinae Choi  
**Lay Leader:** Beth Redd  
**Ushers:** The Sorini Family  
**Fellowship:** Amy Macomber  
**Counters:** Amy & Jerry Macomber  
**Sunday School Teachers:**  
Amy Macomber & Pat Wolff

**THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JAN 21<sup>st</sup> 10:30 AM**

Third Sunday after Epiphany  
**Pastor:** Rev. Susan Graceson  
**Minister of Music:** Huai-En Tsai  
**Soloist:** Shinae Choi  
**Lay Leader:** Anne Baur  
**Ushers:** Sue & Dave Anderson  
**Fellowship:** Can you help?  
**Counters:** Anne & Jack Baur  
**Sunday School Teachers:**  
Elizabeth Dawson & Mary William