

January 21, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Anne Baur

Ushers: Sue & Dave Anderson

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

Hosanna

Carl Tuttle

Welcome

Call to Worship

We long for holiness.

Our lives are filled with schedules and appointments.

We crave holiness.

Our homes are filled with things, some necessary, most not.

We need holiness.

Our minds are filled with to-do lists.

We seek holiness.

Let us leave behind all that is not holy.

We step into the holiness of worship.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn *We Are Standing on Holy Ground* #406 (3 times)

**We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

Announcements

Prayer of Invocation

Holy One, in this season of celebration, shower us with your spirit. 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:

Sacred Son, we have celebrated your birth and now we celebrate your spirit. It lives within us, and yet, we are quick to ignore it. Your spirit lingers in our minds, and yet, we are quick to silence it. Your spirit fills our bodies, and yet, we are quick to shoo it away. Your spirit makes a home in our hearts, and yet, we are quick to let it sleep there, dormant and unappreciated. We know that your birth is a gift, help us to know that your spirit is a gift. Help us to open and receive the gift of your spirit.

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 62:5-12

For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from God.

God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in God at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before the Lord;

God is a refuge for us.

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

For you repay to all according to their work.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

29 I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, 30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, 31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Higher Love

***Unity Hymn**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

#833

**1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

**2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.**

**3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.**

**4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.**

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.



Offering Anthem

Worthy Is the Lord

Darlene Zschech

*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

How Firm A Foundation

#463

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Benediction

Postlude

Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty

Bob Fitts

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

New to the prayer list:

- ❖ Ann Kelly's dear friend Kristy as she faces multiple medical challenges; Betty Harbaugh's daughter Karen who has been hospitalized with COVID; Steven Smith, Barbara Brady's brother who is hospitalized with severe pneumonia.

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) and Bill Landfair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS



RPCNS Open House

Tuesday, Jan 23rd, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM. Join us at our Open House to learn all about RPCNS cooperative preschool! RPCNS, 215 W Montgomery Ave.

RPC Night at Comedy Club!!

Saturday, January 27th. Need a few laughs? Join RPC friends as we yuck it up AND raise money for Rainbow Place Shelter! 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 \(seatengine.cloud\)](https://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.



Faith Formation Interview

Sunday, January 28th after worship – **Faith Journey**



Plan to stay after worship on January 28th 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.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday February 11th is **Super Bowl Sunday** and **Souper Bowl Sunday!**



Bring canned goods to church through Sunday, February 11th to donate to Manna Food Bank. Monetary donations are also accepted in-person or online (please indicate your offering is for the Souper Bowl). On **Sunday, February 11th** from **11:30 am to 1:00 pm**, we will also be collecting canned donations in the RPC parking lot. Tell your friends! More information coming soon about how to use RPC's Amazon wish list to make donations. For most needed foods and information about donating expired foods, take a look at <https://www.mannafood.org/most-needed-foods-list/>

Ash Wednesday - February 14th



Join us as we honor the beginning of the season of Lent. We will have a simple **potluck meal of bread and soup at 6:00 pm**. All those who are able are invited to bring a dish to share. The Ash Wednesday **Service will follow at 7:00p.m.** Service will include imposition of ashes.

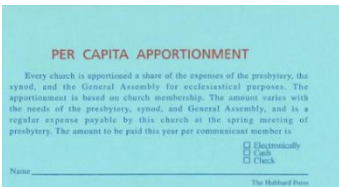
Revenues Team



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 next meeting is TBD.



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**

<p align="center"><u>THOSE SERVING TODAY,</u> <u>SUNDAY, JAN. 21st 10:30 AM</u> Third Sunday after Epiphany</p>	<p align="center"><u>THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY,</u> <u>JAN. 28th 10:30 AM</u> Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</p>
<p>Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson Minister of Music: Dr. Huai-En Tsai Soloist: Shinae Choi Lay Leader: Anne Baur Ushers: Sue and Dave Anderson Fellowship: Patti Sorini and Bernice Brown Counters: Anne & Jack Baur Sunday School Teachers: Elizabeth Dawson and Mary Williams</p>	<p>Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson Minister of Music: Dr. Huai-En Tsai Soloist: Shinae Choi (last performance) Lay Leader: Mike Herzfeld Ushers: Elizabeth and Paul Boyer Fellowship: Ann Kelly and Fellowship Committee Counters: Elizabeth and Paul Boyer Sunday School Teachers: Carol Bogezi, Joel Masselink, and Elke Herzfeld</p>

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.



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.