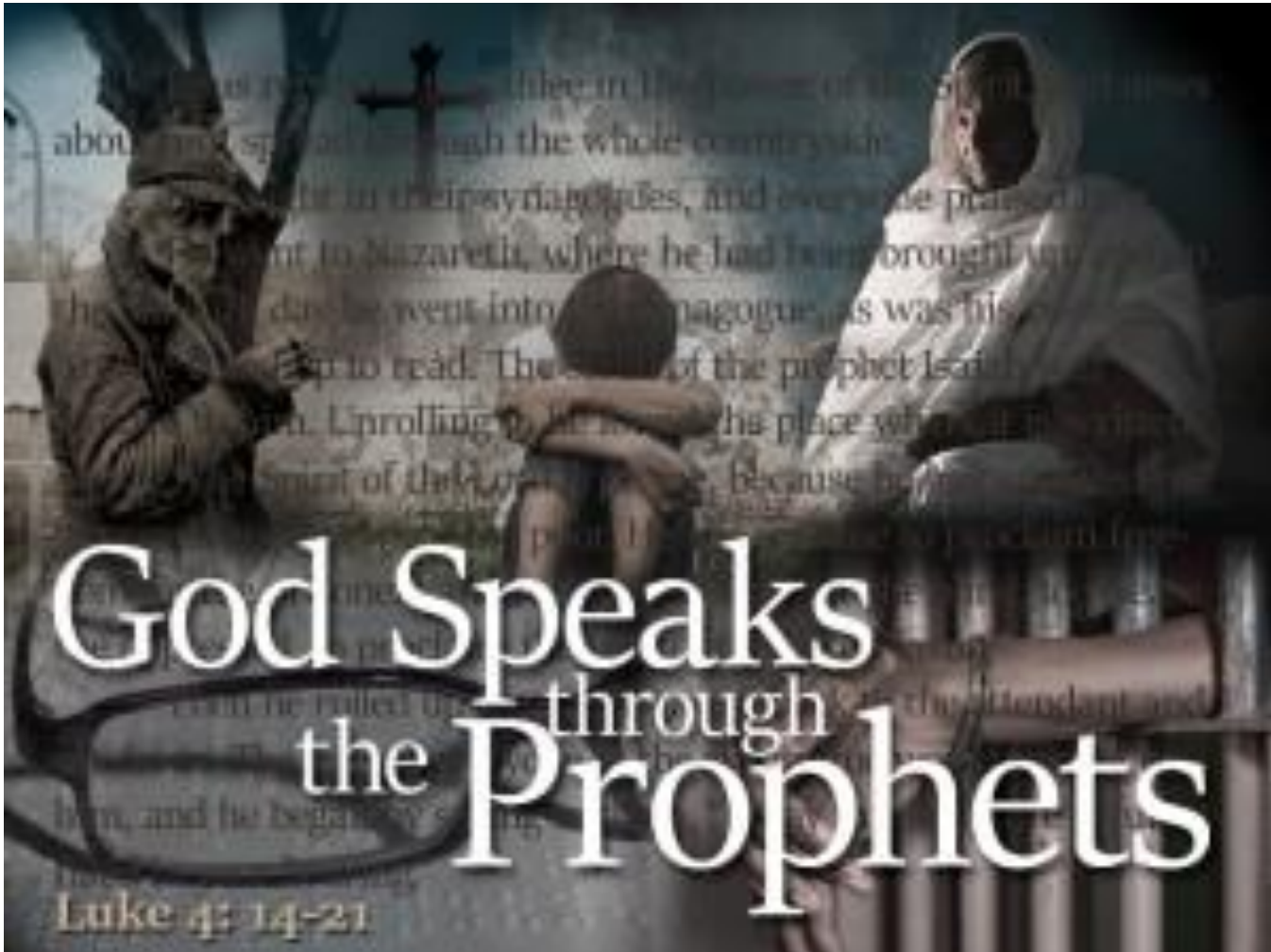


January 28, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Lay Leader: Mike Herzfeld

Ushers: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas Chisholm

Welcome

Call to Worship

Rejoice, people of God: this is our Sabbath day.

Rejoice, friends in Christ: this is our time for worship.

God ordained the Sabbath for rest and restoration.

God is worthy of worship, our Creator, Healer, and Inspiration.

Let us worship God.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

The Fragrance of Christ

STF#2205

Refrain:

Lord may our prayer rise like incense in your sight.

May this place be filled with the fragrance of Christ.

1. I will thank you, Lord, with all of my heart.

You have heard the words of my mouth.

In the presence of the angels, I will bless you.

I will adore before your holy temple.

**2. I will thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness and love,
beyond all my hopes and dreams.**

**On the day that I called, you
answered; you gave life to the strength of my soul.**

3. All who live on earth shall give you thanks

when they hear the words of your voice,

and all shall sing of your ways:

"How great is the glory of God!"

Announcements (pages 7 - 9 in purple)

Prayer of Invocation

Holy One, on this sabbath day, cover us with your spirit. We lift up songs, prayers, and scripture to you, oh Heavenly One. We seek your Holy Spirit. We feel your presence. We know you more deeply. Amen

Prayer of Confession:

Holy One, your words light our paths. You speak to us. You want to be heard. But the world is so loud, and we are so weak. Other noises fill our ears. We choose to listen to gossiping neighbors, honking car horns, raging sirens, our own nonstop thoughts, the 24-hour news cycle. We let the sounds of this world overwhelm us. Help us. Forgive us and our fragile ears. Speak to us again, Holy One.

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 111

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is God's work,
and God's righteousness endures forever.

God has gained renown by wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

God provides food for those who fear God;
God is ever mindful of God's covenant.

God has shown God's people the power of God's works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of God's hands are faithful and just;
all God's precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and
uprightness.

God sent redemption to God's people;

God has commanded God's covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is God's name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

all those who practice it have a good understanding.

God's praise endures forever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-18

15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. **16** This is what you requested of

the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." **17** Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said.

18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Unity Hymn**

I Will Come to You

#177

1 "I will come to you in the silence;
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice;
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.

Refrain:

"Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

2 "I am hope for all who are hopeless;
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me. (*Refrain*)

3 "I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see;
the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name. (*Refrain*)

4 "I am the Word that leads all to freedom;
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk and live! (*Refrain*)

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.



***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**

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

How Great Thou Art

Carl Boberg

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

New to the prayer list:

- ❖ Bill Taboada, Peg's son who is hospitalized.

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Ann Kelly's dear friend Kristy as she faces multiple medical challenges; Betty Harbaugh's daughter Karen who has been hospitalized with COVID; Betty Harbaugh and her family as they grieve the passing of her granddaughter Michelle; Mason Dencker; Jeff Taylor (Bob Taylor's son) who has been diagnosed with melanoma; Carine Nouna request: Sere, Ruth, and Esame (Shaney); Steven Smith, Barbara Brady's brother; Verlin Morton (Pastor Doty's husband).

Our Homebound:

- ❖ Beth McDonald (Landfair) and Bill Landfair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS



WRPC Faith Journey Interview Today, January 28th

Join us after worship today for our Faith Formation presentation and group meal. We will hear from Huai-En Tsai, our new Minister of Music, and his wife, Shu-Ting Yao.



Mamas-n-Papas Group will meet on **Saturday, February 3rd**, 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.



Sunday, February 11th, at **11:30 Faith Exploration: The 12-Step Movement.** Pastor Susan will explore the history and theological basis of Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-step recovery programs. Special guest Bob M. will speak about his personal experience as an alcoholic, his stay at a rehab facility, and his recovery in a 12-step program. All are welcome.

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! 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. A sign-up is on the kitchen door. 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.



THOSE SERVING TODAY
SUNDAY, JAN. 28th 10:30 AM

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Soloist: Shinae Choi

Violinist: Shu-Ting Yao

Lay Leader: Mike Herzfeld

Ushers: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer

Fellowship: Ann Kelly & the Fellowship
Committee

Counters: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer

Sunday School Teachers:

Carol Bogezi, Joel Masselink, & Elke
Herzfeld

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

FEB. 4th 10:30 AM

Communion Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Lay Leader: Mary Ann Eull

Ushers: Betty Harbaugh & Rachel Jung

Communion Servers: Mike Herzfeld &
Ann Kelly

Fellowship: Can you help?

Counters: Anne & Jack Baur

Sunday School Teachers:

Pat Wolff & Elizabeth Dawson



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.



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.