

February 4, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Lay Leader: Mary Ann Eull

Ushers: Betty Harbaugh and Rachel Jung

Communion Servers: Mike Herzfeld & Ann Kelly

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

You Are My All in All

Dennis L. Jernigan

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Fling open the church doors!

We are here to worship.

Unlock the Sanctuary.

We are here to rest.

Silence the outer world.

We are here to reflect.

Tune up the instruments.

We are here to sing.

Open up the souls.

We are here to pray.

Illuminate the scriptures.

We are here to worship.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Fight the Good Fight

#846

**1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.**

**2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up thine eyes and seek Christ's face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**3 Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.
God's boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.
God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.**

Announcements (See pages 7-10 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:

Source of All Strength, we lay our weakness at your feet. We forget that you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end and all that is between. We ignore your strength as the Great Creator, the One who crafted the mountains and filled the seas. We discount your works as the Wonder Worker, the One who fed the hungry, healed the doomed, and raised the dead. We dismiss your Holy Spirit, the Presence that keeps you alive in our very own souls. We confess all of the ways in which our faith weakens. We confess all of this and more. Help us. Forgive us. Please.

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 147

Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
God gathers the outcasts of Israel.

God heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.

God determines the number of the stars;
God gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
God's understanding is beyond measure.

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
God casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.

God covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,

makes grass grow on the hills.
God gives to the animals their food,

and to the young ravens when they cry.
God's delight is not in the strength of the horse,

nor is God's pleasure in the speed of a runner;
but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear the Lord,
in those who hope in God's steadfast love.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Have you not been paying attention? Have you not been listening?
 Haven't you heard these stories all your life? Don't you understand the
 foundation of all things?
 God sits high above the round ball of earth. The people look like mere ants.
 God stretches out the skies like a canvas—like a tent canvas to live under.
 God ignores what all the princes say and do. The rulers of the earth count for
 nothing.
 Princes and rulers don't amount to much. Like seeds barely rooted, just
 sprouted,
 They shrivel when God blows on them. Like flecks of chaff, they're gone with
 the wind.
 God asks, "Who—who is like me? Who holds a candle to me?"
 Look at the night skies: Who do you think made all this?
 Who marches this army of stars out each night, counts them off, calls each by
 name—so magnificent! so powerful! — and never overlooks a single one?
 Why would you ever complain, O Jacob, or, whine, Israel, saying,
 "God has lost track of me. God doesn't care what happens to me?"
 Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening? God doesn't come and go.
 God *lasts*. God is the Creator of all you can see or imagine.
 God doesn't get tired out, God doesn't pause to catch a breath.
 And God knows *everything*, inside and out.
 God energizes those who get tired, God gives fresh strength to dropouts.
 For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and
 fall. But those who wait upon God get fresh strength.
 They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired,
 they walk and don't lag behind.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Strength for the Weary

***Unity Hymn**

If Thou but Trust in God

#816

**1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
 with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
 God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
 to bear thee through the evil days.
 Who trusts in God's unchanging love
 builds on the rock that nought can move.**

**2 Only be still, and wait God's leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure
and all-discerning love hath sent.
No doubt our inmost wants are clear
to One who holds us always dear.**

**3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
but do thine own part faithfully.
Trust the rich promises of grace;
so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
the soul secured by trust indeed.**

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

Broken for Me

Janet Lunt

***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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ #526**

**1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured;
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain:

**Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**2 Christ is able to make us one;
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.**

Refrain:

**Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! (*Refrain*)**

Benediction

Postlude

Worthy Is the Lamb

Darlene Zschech

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

New to the prayer list:

- ❖ Bryson Sorini, who is away at college in Connecticut, slipped on the ice and is suffering with a concussion and severe bruising to his head and face. Please send healing prayers his way.

We continue to pray for:

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

Revenues Team



Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00 pm. All members and friends are welcome!

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.



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/>



Tuesday, February 13th 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.** "We'll make Valentines cookies for the staff, volunteers, and guests of Rainbow Place!"

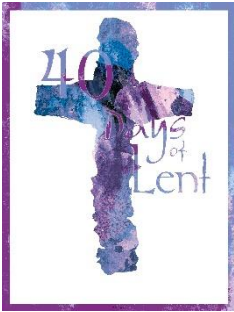
Ash Wednesday - February 14th

Join us along with EIPC 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.



Lenten Meditation Group

Beginning on **Tuesday, February 20th at 7 p.m., in person** in the **sanctuary**, and **on Zoom** we will come together for meditative prayer crafted by the clergy from Washington National Cathedral. Themes will include loss, healing, contemplation, strength, and faith. The path from ashes to alleluias is one that we walk together, in community.



Easter Lilies

We will be ordering Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary. If you would like to purchase a lily for yourself or in memory of a loved one, there is a sign-up sheet on the kitchen door. **Please sign up on or before Sunday, March 24th**. The price per lily will be \$10. You can pay by cash or check made out to RPC. (Please indicate it is for 'Easter Lily' on the memo line). You will be able to take home your lily after the Easter service. If you would like your lily to go to a home-bound or sick member, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet and we will deliver the lily to that person. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Macomber at amacomber2@verizon.net.

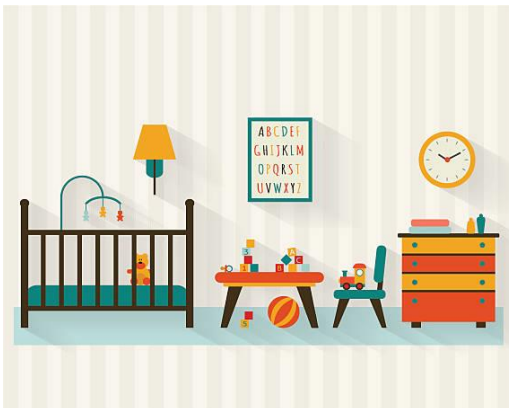


THOSE SERVING TODAY
SUNDAY, FEB. 4th 10:30 AM
Communion Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Mary Ann Eull
Ushers: Betty Harbaugh & Rachel Jung
Communion Servers:
Mike Herzfeld and Ann Kelly
Fellowship: Jie Yu
Counters: Anne & Jack Baur
Sunday School Teachers:
Pat Wolff & Elizabeth Dawson

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY
FEB. 11th 10:30 AM
Transfiguration of the Lord

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Aimee Ranaivoarijaona
Ushers: Patti Sorini and Mike Herzfeld
Fellowship: Patti Sorini
Counters: Amy & Jerry Macomber
Sunday School Teachers:
Mary Williams & Amy Macomber



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.