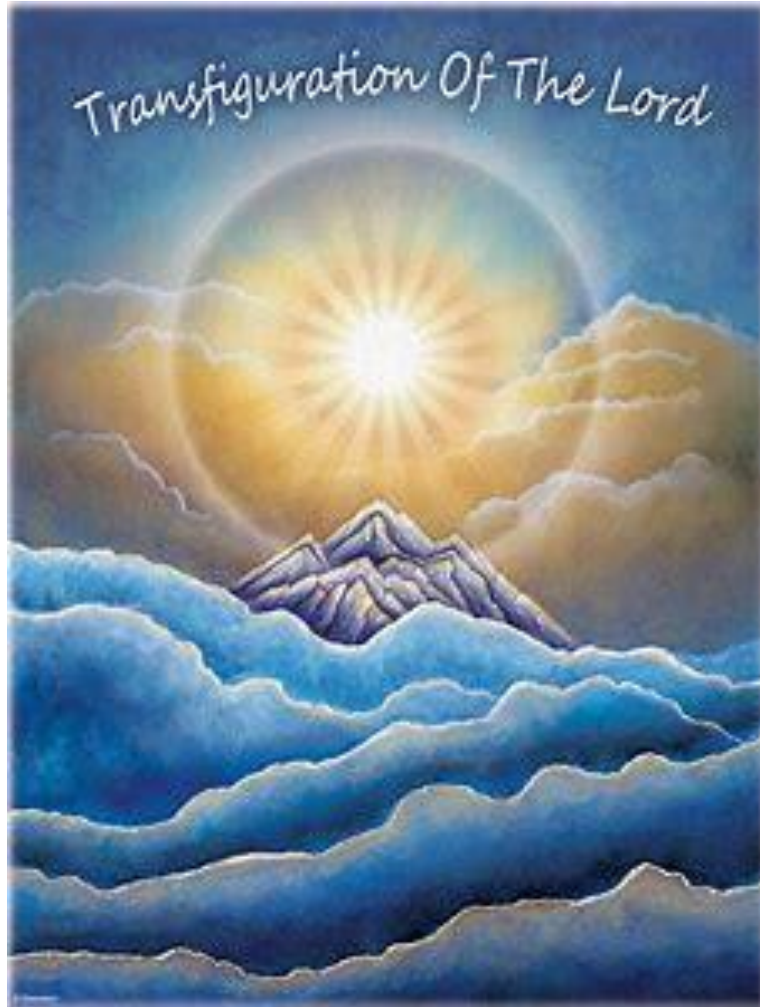


**February 11, 2024**  
**Rockville Presbyterian Church**  
**Rockville, MD**  
[www.rockvillepres.org](http://www.rockvillepres.org)



**Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson**

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

**Lay Leader: Aimee Ranaivoarijaona**

**Ushers: Mike Herzfeld & Patti Sorini**

**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

*For I'm Building A People of Power*

Dave Richards

Welcome

### \*Call to Worship

Get up and praise the Holy One.

**Wake up, church! It is time to worship.**

Get up and pray to the Divine Maker.

**Wake up, children. It is time to worship.**

Get up and sing to the Great Musician.

**Wake up, singers. It is time to worship.**

Get up and shout the Word to the One who was the Word.

**Wake up, believers. It is time to worship.**

Get up and give thanks to the Holy Spirit.

**Wake up, people of faith. It is time to worship God.**

**Amen.**

### \*Gathering Hymn

**We Are Marching**

**STF #2235-b**

**We are marching in the light of God. (4 times)**

**We are marching, marching,**

**We are marching oh ohhh,**

**We are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,**

**We are marching oh ohhh,**

**We are marching in the light of God.**

**We are singing in the light of God. (4 times)**

**We are singing, singing,**

**We are singing oh ohhh,**

**We are singing in the light of God.**

**We are singing, singing,**

**We are singing oh ohhh,**

**We are singing in the light of God.**

**We are walking in the light of God. (4 times)**

**We are walking, walking,**

**We are walking oh ohhh,**

**We are walking in the light of God.**

**We are walking, walking,**

**We are walking oh ohhh,**

**We are walking in the light of God.**

**We are praying in the light of God. (4 times)**

**We are praying, praying,**

**We are praying oh ohhh,**

**We are praying in the light of God.**

**We are praying, praying,**

**We are praying oh ohhh,**

**We are praying in the light of God.**

## **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:**

**Good and Gracious God, we bring our whole selves to you. You already know who we hate, how we drive, where we give our resources. You already know who we judge, how we doubt, the places we avoid. You already know why we hesitate, what we fear, who we push away. You already know us. We tremble at the depth of your intimacy. Forgive us when we fail your divine vision for us.**

**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

### Installation of New Members

Joel Masselink and Carol Bogezi

### Prayer of Illumination

Loving God, in this time of holiness, 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 50: 1-6

The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

Our God comes and does not keep silence,

**before God is a devouring fire,**

and a mighty tempest all around God.

**God calls to the heavens above and to the earth,**

that God may judge God's people:

**"Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"**

The heavens declare God's righteousness, for God is judge.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**2** Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, **3** and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. **4** And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. **5** Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." **6** He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. **7** Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" **8** Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

**9** As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon****The Suddenness of God****\*Unity Hymn*****Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*****#193**

**1** Jesus, take us to the mountain,  
where, with Peter, James, and John,  
we are dazzled by your glory,  
light as blinding as the sun.  
There prepare us for the night  
by the vision of that sight.

**2** What do you want us to see there,  
that your close companions saw?  
Your divinity revealed there  
fills us with the selfsame awe.  
Clothed in flesh like ours you go,  
matched to meet our deadliest foe.

**3** What do you want us to hear there,  
that your dear disciples heard?  
Once again the voice from heaven  
says of the Incarnate Word,

**"Listen, listen, everyone:  
this is my beloved Son."**

**4 Take us to that other mountain  
where we see you glorified,  
where you shouted, "It is finished!"  
where for all the world you died.  
Hear the stunned centurion:  
"Truly this was God's own Son!"**

## **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.*



**Offering Anthem**

***Fairest Lord Jesus***

**Anonymous**

**\*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**

***Lift Every Voice and Sing***

**#339**

**1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on, till victory is won.**

**2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.  
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet**

**come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the  
slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.**

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*He Is Exalted*

**Twila Paris**

## **PRAYERS & BLESSINGS**

### **We continue to pray for:**

- ❖ Bryson Sorini, who is away at college in Connecticut, slipped on the ice and is suffering with a concussion and sever bruising to his head and face. Please send healing prayers his way; 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; Steven Smith, Barbara Brady's brother; Verlin Morton (Pastor Doty's husband).

### **Our Homebound:**

- ❖ Beth McDonald (Landfair) and Bill Landfair.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us today February 11<sup>th</sup>, after service at 11:30 for our 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.



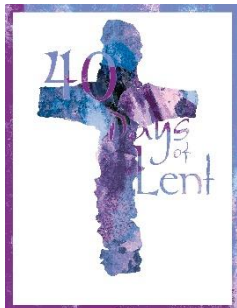
Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00pm - Lunch Bunch Bring your own lunch and meet in the Calvin Room to break bread together in fellowship. **All are welcome.** "We'll make Valentine's cookies for the staff, volunteers, and guests of Rainbow Place!"



### Ash Wednesday - February 14<sup>th</sup>

Join RPC and 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 sheet** is on the kitchen door. The **Ash Wednesday Service** will **follow at 7:00p.m.** Service will include imposition of ashes.

Childcare will be available during the Ash Wednesday dinner and service.



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



**Join us to honor and celebrate Black History Month! On Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>,** at **11 a.m.**, we will tour the Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. Church Historian Chiquita Sorrels will lead the tour of this Rockville landmark. The church was established in the early 1800s during the time of separatism and has a rich history of faith and perseverance. Come to learn more about this beautiful church and community. Plan to have lunch together afterwards at a local eatery. The church is located at **21 Wood Lane**, just 2 blocks from RPC.



**Easter Lilies** We will be ordering Easter lilies again this year to decorate the sanctuary. **Please sign up on or before Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.** If you would like to purchase a lily for yourself or in memory of a loved one, there is a sign-up sheet is on the kitchen door. 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 email: [amacomber2@verizon.net](mailto:amacomber2@verizon.net).

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**  
**SUNDAY, FEB. 11<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM**

*Transfiguration of the Lord*

**Pastor:** Rev. Susan Graceson

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

**Lay Leader:** Aimee Ranaivoarijaona

**Ushers:** Mike Herzfeld & Patti Sorini

**Fellowship:** Bernice Brown,  
Carol Bogezi & Joel  
Masselink

**Counters:** Amy & Jerry Macomber

**Sunday School Teachers:**

Mary Williams & Amy Macomber

**THOSE SERVING ASH WEDNESDAY,**  
**FEB. 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM**

*Ash Wednesday*

**Bread & Soup at 6:00pm, Worship at  
7:00pm**

**Pastors:** Rev. Susan Graceson and  
Rev. Cynthia Kekung Londah

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

**Pianist:** Mira Mangindaan

**Lay Leader:** Joel Masselink

**Ushers:** Sue & Dave Anderson

**THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY**

**FEB. 18<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM**

*First Sunday of Lent*

**Pastor:** Rev. Susan Graceson

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

**Lay Leader:** Joel Masselink

**Ushers:** Kathy & Phil Ruxton

**Fellowship:** Patti Sorini

**Counters:** Elizabeth & Paul Boyer

**Sunday School Teachers:**

Pat Wolff & Elke Herzfeld



**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.*