

February 18, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Lay Leader: Rachel Jung

Ushers: Phil & Kathy Ruxton

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

Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

Don Moen

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

We choose to worship.

Out of the wilderness of life, we choose to worship God.

We choose to pray.

Out of the wilderness of life, we choose to pray to God.

We choose to sing.

Out of the wilderness of life, we choose to sing to God.

We choose to love.

Out of the wilderness of life, we choose to love God.

We choose God.

Out of the wilderness of life, we choose God.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Spirit, Now Live in Me

STF #2123

**1 O holy Dove of God descending,
You are the love that knows no ending.
All of our shattered dreams You're mending:
Spirit, now live in me.**

**2 O holy Wind of God now blowing,
You are the seed that God us sowing.
You are the life that starts us growing:
Spirit, now live in me.**

**3 O holy Rain of God now falling,
You make the Word of God enthralling,
You are that inner voice now calling:
Spirit, now live in me.**

**4 O holy Flame of God now burning,
You are the power of Christ returning.
You are the answer to our yearning:
Spirit, now live in me.**

Announcements (see pages 7-10 in purple)

Prayer of Invocation

Holy One, cover us with your spirit as we journey through the wilderness. 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:

Gracious God of the wilderness, we have made our comfort a priority. We refuse to struggle. We refuse to wait. We refuse to reside in mystery. We seek security at all costs. We turn our backs on your wilderness places. We need to know. We need to be sure. Contentedness has become our god. Forgive our lazy lack of faith. Help us to welcome the unknown. Help us to trust in your mysteries. Strengthen us as we walk to the cross.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

Assurance of Pardon

***Choral Response**

O Lord, Your Tenderness

STF#2143 (3 times)

**Oh Lord, your tenderness,
melting all my bitterness;
Oh Lord, I receive your love.
Oh Lord, your loveliness,
changing my unworthiness;
Oh Lord, I receive your love.
Oh Lord, I receive your love;
Oh Lord, I receive your love.**

THE WORD

Children's Sermon

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

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,

and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love, remember me, for your goodness' sake,

O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore God instructs sinners in the way.

God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble God's way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep God's covenant and God's decrees.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

Job 1:13-22

¹³One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother's house, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, ¹⁵and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to

tell you.” ¹⁶While he was still speaking, another came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁷While he was still speaking, another came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁸While he was still speaking, another came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, ¹⁹and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you.” ²⁰Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹He said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” ²²In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Faith and Wilderness

***Unity Hymn**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

STF # 2129

**1 I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus -
no turning back, no turning back.**

**2 The world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me -
no turning back, no turning back.**

**3 Though none go with me, still will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow -
no turning back, no turning back.**

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

Trust and Obey

Daniel B. Towner

***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 and excerpted from the PC-USA *Book of Order*, W-1.0000)

In Jesus Christ, God entered fully into the human condition in an act of self-revelation, redemption, and forgiveness. Entering the brokenness of the world, God in Jesus Christ atoned for sin and restored human life. By so entering the created world, God brought time and space, matter and human life to fulfillment as instruments for knowing and praising their Creator. Jesus of Nazareth offered the perfect human response to God. The Life that redeems reveals the form and purpose of redeemed life. Jesus Christ is the living God, present in common life.

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 Who Hunger

STF #2126

**1 All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**3 All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

Benediction

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

New to the Prayer list

- ❖ Verlin Morton (Pastor Doty's husband) who is in ICU in Wisconsin.

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 severe 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.

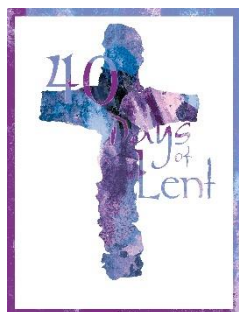
Our Homebound:

- ❖ Beth McDonald (Landfair) and Bill Landfair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday, February 19th - the office will be *closed* in observance of Presidents' Day.



Lenten Meditation Group begins this **Tuesday, February 20th**: 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.



Date Correction! Join us to honor and celebrate Black History Month! On Friday, February 23rd, 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. Plan to have lunch together afterwards at a local eatery. The church is located at **21 Wood Lane**, just 2 blocks from RPC. To learn more about the church visit [Jerusalem-Mt.Pleasant UMC – Building Believers Together \(jerpump.org\)](http://jerpump.org)



Anyone interested in singing with the community, please join Minister of Music, Huai-En Tsai, Sundays in March at 9:30am, as he teaches us a special Easter song to share during worship. All individuals are welcome and do not have to have any prior singing experience.



We will be collecting offerings for the **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** during Lent. One Great Hour of Sharing is a PC(USA) offering which supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Use the special envelopes in the pews or donate online/in-person by indicating your offering is for One Great Hour of Sharing.



We will be collecting supplies for the **Mansfield Kaseman Clinic** through **Sunday, March 31st**. (Easter Sunday). To view most needed items, go to; [4c9ddf 381be819b0df4c0ea64b6ec581930f32.pdf](https://cmrocks.org/4c9ddf381be819b0df4c0ea64b6ec581930f32.pdf) (cmrocks.org)



WE NEED YOU! Volunteer to sort clothes/food at the Clothing Center on **Saturday, March 2nd** from **10am-12pm** with a group of RPC volunteers. Let Rachel Jung fastfreckle@hotmail.com know if you would like to participate by next **Monday, February 26th**. To learn more visit: <https://www.iworksmc.org/assistance>



Tuesday, February 27th from 10am-2pm, Interfaith Works will host a Faith and Community Partnerships Community Service Awards Brunch. For more information and to RSVP, go to <https://www.iworksmc.org/upcoming-events>



Easter Lilies - We will be ordering Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary. **Please sign up on or before Sunday, March 24th.** The 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.



Thank you to everyone who supported Souper Bowl Sunday. We collected a total of 209 cans/containers of food and \$150 to donate to Manna Food Bank. Learn more about Manna Food Center at <https://www.mannafood.org/>

THOSE SERVING TODAY
SUNDAY, FEB. 18th 10:30 AM

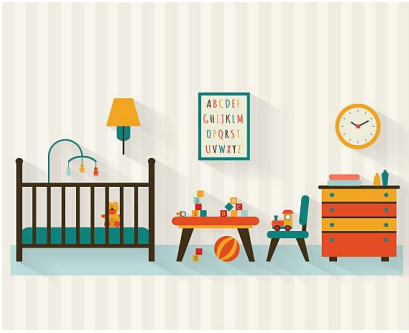
First Sunday of Lent

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Rachel Jung
Ushers: Kathy & Phil Ruxton
Fellowship: Patti Sorini
Counters: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer
Sunday School Teachers:
Pat Wolff & Elke Herzfeld

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY
FEB. 25th 10:30 AM

Second Sunday of Lent

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Kathy Ruxton
Ushers: Mike Herzfeld & Sherry Smith
Fellowship: Can you help?
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.