

February 25, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Violinist: Shu-Ting Yao
Lay Leader: Kathy Ruxton
Ushers: Mike Herzfeld & Sherry Smith

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

Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome

David Huntsinger

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

We come together for God.

From our separate homes,
we come together for God.

From our separate lives,
we come together for God.

From our separate families,
we come together for God.

May the Spirit fall on us and make us one.
Make us one for God.

May the Spirit fall on us and bind us together.
Bind us together for God.

May the Spirit fall on us and unite us in Christ.
Unite us in Christ, for God.

May the Spirit fall on us.
Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Bind Us Together

STF #2226 (3 times)

**Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together,
Bind us together in Love,
There is only one God.
There is only one King.
There is only one body.
That is why we sing.**

Announcements (See pages 7-9 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:

Oh, Loving God, help us. We are so quick to tell others how to manage their lives. We puff ourselves up with all manner of advice, doling it out for everyone's good. We talk without invitation: Here is where you should live; here is what you should wear; here is who you should love; here is how you should worship. And yet, when asked to witness to your presence in our very own lives, our lips are suddenly frozen and still. Forgive us for our cheap intimacy. Forgive us for our fragile witness.

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 22:23-31

You who fear the Lord, praise God!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God;

stand in awe of God, all you offspring of Israel!

For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;

God did not hide God's face from me, but heard when I cried.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who fear God.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek God shall praise God.

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

and all the families of the nations shall worship before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

and the Lord rules over the nations.

To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;

before God shall bow all who go down to the dust,

and I shall live for God.

Posterity will serve God;

future generations will be told about the Lord,

and proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that God has done it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

Job 4:1-8 and Job 11:11-26

4 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered:

2 "If one ventures a word with you, will you be offended?

But who can keep from speaking?

3 See, you have instructed many;
you have strengthened the weak hands.
4 Your words have supported those who were stumbling,
and you have made firm the feeble knees.
5 But now it has come to you, and you are impatient;
it touches you, and you are dismayed.
6 Is not your fear of God your confidence,
and the integrity of your ways your hope?
7 “Think now, who that was innocent ever perished?
Or where were the upright cut off?
8 As I have seen, those who plow iniquity
and sow trouble reap the same.

12 But a stupid man will get understanding, when a wild ass’s colt is born a man. **13** “If you set your heart aright, you will stretch out your hands toward him. **14** If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in your tents. **15** Surely then you will lift up your face without blemish; you will be secure, and will not fear. **16** You will forget your misery; you will remember it as waters that have passed away. **17** And your life will be brighter than the noonday; its darkness will be like the morning. **18** And you will have confidence, because there is hope; you will be protected and take your rest in safety. **19** You will lie down, and none will make you afraid; many will entreat your favor. **20** But the eyes of the wicked will fail; all way of escape will be lost to them, and their hope is to breathe their last.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Job and His Friends

***Unity Hymn**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

#286

**1 Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.**

**3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

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

I Surrender All

Judson Van DeVenter

***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**

God of Compassion

#46

**1 God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,
patience untiring and courage unfailing.**

**2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.**

**3 How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,**

Benediction

Postlude

The Gift of Love

**English melody
adpt. Hal H. Hopson**

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

- ❖ RPC Treasurer Yolanda Darden and her husband as they receive treatment for long term COVID.

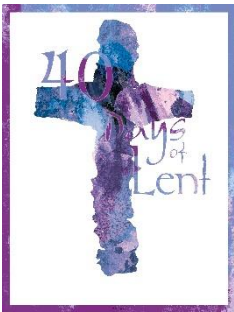
We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Verlin Morton (Pastor Doty's husband) who is home now in D.C.; 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



Lenten Meditation Group, continues this **Tuesday, February 27th** 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.

Easter Choir Practice

Sundays in March starting March 3rd
9:30 AM 10:00 AM

Anyone interested in singing with community, please join Minister of Music, Huai-En Tsai, Sundays in March 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 **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 **OGHS**.



RPC will collect supplies for the **Mansfield Kaseman Clinic** through **Sunday, March 31st**. (Easter Sunday). Click here [Amazon.com](#) to purchase items from our Amazon wish list. To view most needed items, go to: cmrocks.org



WE NEED YOU! Let Rachel Jung (<mailto:fastfreckle@hotmail.com>) know if you would like to participate by tomorrow **Monday, February 26th**, Volunteer to sort clothes/food at the Clothing Center on **Saturday, March 2nd** from **10am-12pm** with a group of RPC volunteers. 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 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 again 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. 25th 10:30 AM
Second Sunday of Lent

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Violinist: Shu-Ting Yao
Lay Leader: Kathy Ruxton
Ushers: Mike Herzfeld & Sherry Smith
Fellowship: Amy Macomber
Counters: Amy & Jerry Macomber
Sunday School Teachers:
Mary Williams & Amy Macomber

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY
March 3rd 10:30 AM
Third Sunday of Lent

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Dave Tucker
Ushers: Betty Harbaugh & Mary Ann Eull
Communion Servers: Sue & Dave
Anderson
Fellowship: Pat Wolff
Counters: Anne & Jack Baur
Sunday School Teachers:
Carol Bogezi, Joel Masselink & 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.



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.