

March 3, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



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

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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas Dorsey

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We are on the way to the last supper.

We dine with Jesus.

We are on the way to the cross.

We walk with Jesus.

We are on the way to the crown of thorns.

We prepare with Jesus.

We are on the way to the tomb.

We trudge with Jesus.

We are on the way to glory.

We worship Jesus.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

O Word of God Incarnate

#459

**1 O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.**

**2 The church from you, dear Savior,
received this gift divine;
and still that light is lifted
on all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
that, all life's voyage through,
amid the rocks and quicksands
still guides, O Christ, to you.**

**3 O make your church, dear Savior,
a lamp of purest gold
to bear before the nations
your true light, as of old;
O teach your wandering pilgrims
by this our path to trace,
till, clouds and storms thus ended,
we see you face to face.**

Announcements (See pages 11-13 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:

Creator God, your world fills us with wonder, and yet, we shy away from adoring you. Your mountains are too majestic. Your oceans are too blue. Your fields are too fertile. Your night skies are too starry. We want to adore you, but we are much more comfortable with other gods: our titles, our bank accounts, our reputations, our accomplishments. Forgive us for worshiping anything or anyone other than you. Forgive our misguided adoration. Bring our adoration back to you.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

Assurance of Pardon

*Choral Response	<i>O Lord, Your Tenderness</i>	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 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;

and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;

and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

38 GOD answered Job from the eye of a violent storm. God said:
“Job, why do you confuse the issue?

Why do you talk without knowing what you’re talking about?
Pull yourself together, Job!

Up on your feet! Stand tall!
I have some questions for you,
and I want some straight answers.

Where were you when I created the earth?

Tell me, since you know so much!
Who decided on the earth’s size? Certainly you’ll know that!

Who came up with the blueprints and measurements?

How was its foundation poured,
and who set the cornerstone,

While the morning stars sang in chorus
and all the angels shouted praise?

And who took charge of the ocean
when it gushed forth like a baby from the womb?

That was me!

I wrapped the ocean in soft clouds,
and tucked it in safely at night.

Then I made a playpen for it,
a strong playpen so it couldn’t run loose,

And I said to the ocean, ‘Stay here, ocean, this is your place.

Your wild tantrums are confined to this place.’

“And Job, have you ever ordered the Morning, ‘Get up!’

Have you ever told the Dawn, ‘Get to work!’

Could you seize Earth like a blanket
and shake out the wicked like cockroaches?

As the sun brings everything to light,
brings out all the colors and shapes,

The cover of darkness is snatched from the wicked—
they’re caught in the very act!

“Have you ever gotten to the true bottom of things?

Job, have you ever explored the labyrinthine caves of deep ocean?

Do you know the first thing about death?

Do you have one clue regarding death’s dark mysteries?

And do you have any idea how large this earth is?

Speak up if you have even the beginning of an answer.

“Do you know where Light comes from
and where Darkness lives

So you can take them by the hand
and lead them home when they get lost?
Why, of course you know that.
You've known them all your life,
grown up in the same neighborhood with them!
"Job, have you ever traveled to where snow is made?
Have you seen the vault where hail is stockpiled,
The arsenals of hail and snow that I keep in readiness
for times of trouble and battle and war?
Can you find your way to where lightning is launched,
or to the place from which the wind blows?
Who do you suppose carves canyons
for the downpours of rain, and charts
the route of thunderstorms
That bring water to unvisited fields,
deserts no one ever lays eyes on,
Drenching the useless wastelands
so they're carpeted with wildflowers and grass?
And who do you think is the father of rain and dew?
Who is the mother of ice and frost?
You don't for a minute imagine
these marvels of weather just happen, do you?
"Can you catch the eye of the beautiful Pleiades sisters,
or distract Orion from his hunt?
Can you get Venus to look your way,
or get the Great Bear and her cubs to come out and play?
Do you know the first thing about the sky's constellations
and how they affect things on Earth?
"Can you get the attention of the clouds,
and commission a shower of rain?
Can you take charge of the lightning bolts
and have them report to you for orders?
What Do You Have to Say for Yourself?
"Who do you think gave weather-wisdom to the ibis,
and storm-savvy to the rooster?
Does anyone know enough to number all the clouds
or tip over the rain barrels of heaven
When the earth is cracked and dry,
the ground baked hard as a brick?
"Can you teach the lioness to stalk her prey
and satisfy the appetite of her cubs
As they crouch in their den,

waiting hungrily in their cave?
And who sets out food for the ravens
when their young cry to God,
fluttering about because they have no food?"

39 "Do you know the month when mountain goats give birth?
Have you ever watched a doe bear her fawn?
Do you know how many months she is pregnant?
Do you know the season of her delivery,
when she crouches down and drops her offspring?
Her young ones flourish and are soon on their own;
they leave and don't come back.
"Who do you think set the wild donkey free,
opened the corral gates and let him go?
I gave him the whole wilderness to roam in,
the rolling plains and wide-open places.
He laughs at his city cousins, who are harnessed and harried.
He's oblivious to the cries of teamsters.
He grazes freely through the hills,
nibbling anything that's green.
"Job, will the wild buffalo condescend to serve you,
volunteer to spend the night in your barn?
Can you imagine hitching your plow to a buffalo
and getting him to till your fields?
He's hugely strong, yes, but could you trust him,
would you dare turn the job over to him?
You wouldn't for a minute depend on him, would you,
to do what you said when you said it?
"The ostrich flaps her wings futilely—
all those beautiful feathers, but useless!
She lays her eggs on the hard ground,
leaves them there in the dirt, exposed to the weather,
Not caring that they might get stepped on and cracked
or trampled by some wild animal.
She's negligent with her young, as if they weren't even hers.
She cares nothing about anything.
She wasn't created very smart, that's for sure,
wasn't given her share of good sense.
But when she runs, oh, how she runs,
laughing, leaving horse and rider in the dust.
"Are you the one who gave the horse his prowess
and adorned him with a shimmering mane?"

Did you create the horse to prance proudly
and strike terror with his royal snorts?
He paws the ground fiercely, eager and spirited,
then charges into the fray.
The horse laughs at danger, fearless,
doesn't shy away from the sword.
The banging and clanging
of quiver and lance don't faze him.
He quivers with excitement, and at the trumpet blast
races off at a gallop.
At the sound of the trumpet he neighs mightily,
smelling the excitement of battle from a long way off,
catching the rolling thunder of the war cries.
"Was it through your know-how that the hawk learned to fly,
soaring effortlessly on thermal updrafts?
Did you command the eagle's flight,
and teach her to build her nest in the heights,
Perfectly at home on the high cliff face,
invulnerable on pinnacle and crag?
From her perch the eagle searches for prey,
spies it at a great distance.
Her young gorge themselves on carrion;
wherever there's a roadkill, you'll see her circling."

40 "Now Job, what do you have to say for yourself?
Now Job, what do you have to say for yourself?
Now Job, what do you have to say for yourself?"

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

God Answers Job

***Unity Hymn** *God is Calling through the Whisper*

#410

**1 God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?**

**2 God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?**

**3 God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear!
God is calling—and we hear!**

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

It Is Well, with My Soul

Phillip Bliss

***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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Communion bread is gluten-free and communion juice is grape juice)

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 Thanks to God

#653 (vs. 1-4)

**1 Give thanks to God who hears our cries
and saves in troubled days
with wondrous works to humankind
that call for highest praise.
Let all who know God's saving love
sing grateful songs always.**

**2 If you have ever wandered where
no human help was near,
and in your trouble cried to God,
who rescued you from fear,**

**then thank the God of steadfast love
who dries your every tear.**

**3 If you have ever lived inside
the prison of your gloom
and cried to God, who broke your bonds
and raised you from your tomb,
then praise the One who sets you free,
who makes dry places bloom.**

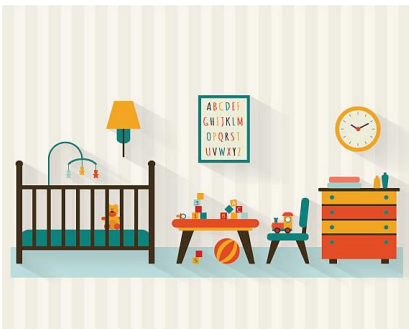
**4 If you drew near the gates of death,
too sick to eat or dress,
and cried to God, who heard your voice
and healed all your distress,
then sing with sounds of holy joy;
God's wondrous works profess.**

Benediction

Postlude

Give Thanks

Henry Smith



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.

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

We continue to pray for:

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

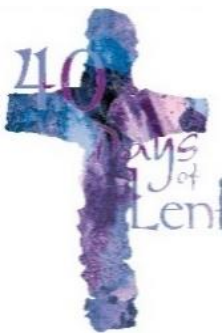
- ❖ Beth McDonald (Landfair) and Bill Landfair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Congregational Meeting on March 17th following worship service. This will be a very brief meeting to vote on the Nominating Committee's slate of new elders and a Clerk of Session.



The Mission Committee is looking for a new chair. Are you Interested? Talk to Pastor Susan or Rachel Jung.



Lenten Meditation Group, continues on Tuesdays, 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 beginning this Sunday, March 3rd at 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.

Benefit Concert

A Concert to Benefit Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP) is today, Sunday, March 3rd 4:00-6:00 pm at Rockville United Church.

Featuring local choral groups. Learn more about REAP at <https://www.cmrocks.org/reap>

 SPECIAL OFFERINGS 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 OGHS.



RPC will collect supplies for the Mansfield Kaseman Clinic through Sunday, March 31st. (Easter Sunday). Click here [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) to purchase items from our Amazon wish list. To view most needed items, go to: <https://www.rockvillepres.org/communityservice>



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.

March Happenings at RPC

Sunday, March 10th - Faith Journey - Guests: Sue McKee Anderson & Harry Redd

Tuesday March 12th -Lunch Bunch - will meet at the home of Harry & Beth Redd

Sunday, March 17th - after service a reception for Barbara Brady, our outgoing Office Manager

Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 28th - Maundy Thursday dinner 6:00pm, sign-up is on the Kitchen door & service 7:00 pm, sign-up is on the Kitchen door.

Friday, March 29th - Good Friday service 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 31st – He Has Risen! Easter Sunrise Service (approx. 6:45 am); Potluck breakfast at 9:30 am; Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 am featuring a baptism; annual Community Easter Egg Hunt (*after service at approximately 11:30am*)

<p><u>THOSE SERVING TODAY</u> <u>SUNDAY, March 3rd 10:30 AM</u> <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>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</p>	<p><u>THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY</u> <u>March 10th 10:30 AM</u> <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai Lay Leader: Amy Macomber Ushers: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer Fellowship: Jie Yu Counters: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer Sunday School Teachers: Elke Herzfeld & Pat Wolff</p>
---	--



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.