

March 24, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Elder Preacher: Pat Wolff
Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Harry Redd
Ushers: 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

Palm Procession

Welcome*

*Call to Worship

Shout Hosanna! Wave your palms!

We celebrate Jesus today.

Shout Hosanna! Wave your palms!

We celebrate love today.

Shout Hosanna! Wave your palms!

We celebrate Jesus in our hearts.

Shout Hosanna! Wave your palms!

We celebrate God who sent Jesus to us.

Shout Hosanna! Wave your palms!

Let us worship God.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

Hosanna! Hosanna!

STF#2109

Jesus rode into Jerusalem

Hosanna! Hosanna!

All the people sang their praise to him.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Come town upon a donkey's back;

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Seemed so lowly but he's Lord in fact.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Refrain:

Hosanna! Hear the people say Hosanna!

Save us today.

Hosanna! It's a faithful song.

Hosanna! Sing it all night long! All night long

Everybody brought their hopes and dreams.

Life just isn't always what it seems.

**Hosanna! Hosanna!
Need somebody who can help us be
Hosanna! Hosanna!
liberated from captivity.**

***Refrain (2 times)*
Hosanna! Hear the people say Hosanna!
Save us today.
Hosanna! It's a faithful song.
Hosanna! Sing it all night long! All night long**

Announcements (see pages 8-10 in purple)

Prayer of Invocation

Holy One, cover us with your spirit as we journey along the path of life. 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:

God of palms and branches, God of donkeys and lambs, God of parades and celebrations, You know us well, better than we know ourselves. You hear us cry "Hosanna!" and "Praise!" And you watch us tear things apart with our words and deeds. You hear us say "Thy will be done" and "use me, O God." And you watch us do nothing in response to cries for help. We beg for your forgiveness. Hear us now say, "Help us to change; turn us around, make us more loving and courageous and hopeful."

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 All My Ugliness
Oh Lord, I Receive Your Love
Oh Lord, I Receive Your Love
Oh Lord, I Receive Your Love, 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.

1st Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

"Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

Mark 14:32-36

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." **33** He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. **34** And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." **35** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want but what you want."

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Anticipation vs. Apprehension

Pat Wolff

***Unity Hymn**

We Sang Our Glad Hosannas

STF#2111 (vs. 1-4)

**We sang our glad Hosannas,
and waved our branches high,
but some were silent, frowning,
as Jesus rode on by.**

**They sought a royal Savior
but did not understand
a king could rule by loving,
instead of by command.**

**We heard an angry Jesus
in Temple courts declare,
"Be gone, you moneychangers!
This is a house of prayer."**

**Though many came for healing
and stayed to hear his word,
still others, hostile, plotted
and thus his death assured.**

**We served him at the table
with wine, unleavened bread.
"The one who will betray me
now eats with me," he said.**

**His friends would not believe him,
but one by one that night,
as soldiers came to take him,
they scurried out of sight.**

**We saw a suffering Jesus
alone, without a friend,
and heard the voices shouting
abuse until the end.**

**We wept as we stood watching
Love's light grow dim and die,
and cried, "Why did this happen?
God, tell us, tell us why!"**

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

Worthy is the Lamb

Darlene Zschech

***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**

You Are My Refuge, Faithful God

#214

1 You are my refuge, faithful God;
you shelter me from shame.
I put my spirit in your hands
and call upon your name.

2 Deliver me from hidden snares,
from sorrow, pain, and strife.
When troubles seem to smother me,
take heed, and save my life!

3 Be gracious, God, in my distress,
and dry my bitter tears.
My life is spent in misery;
I sigh away my years.

4 I am a wretched sight to see:
a broken, empty thing,
with only terror all around,
and deathly whispering.

5 And yet I trust in you, O God;
your covenant still stands.
Redeem me, in your faithful love:
my life is in your hands.

Benediction

Postlude

Hosanna

Carl Tuttle

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Joan Romaine's sister, Debbie who is undergoing treatment for cancer; Heather & Tiffany friends of Elizabeth Boyer, as they say goodbye to a beloved pet; the family and friends of Jerry Macomber's colleague, Lewis, who recently passed away. Verlin Morton (Pastor Doty's husband) who is in rehab after a hospital stay; 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.

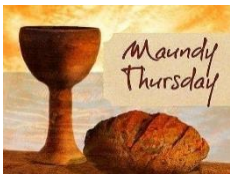
Our Homebound:

- ❖ Beth McDonald (Landfair) and Bill Landfair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS



LAST CHANCE Easter Lilies -Please sign up no later than today 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 can take home your lily after 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



Thursday, March 28th - Maundy Thursday dinner 6:00pm, sign-up is on the kitchen door. Joint worship service with EIPC at **7:00pm** will include dramatic readings, sacrament of holy communion, and meditative singing.



Friday, March 29th - Good Friday, at 7:00 p.m. Stations of the cross service will include readings and music honoring the final moments of Christ's life leading up to the crucifixion.



Next Sunday, March 31st – He Has Risen! Easter *Sunrise* Service (approx. 6:35 am) followed by breakfast at First Watch.

POTLUCK BREAKFAST at 9:30 am. – Bring a breakfast item to share as we gather together in the Calvin Room in preparation for our Easter Celebration. **10:30 am Easter Sunday Service** with a baptism followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt at approximately 11:30am.**



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

We are 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 is collecting 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:

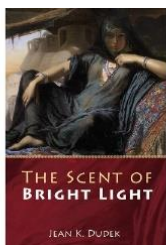
<https://www.rockvillepres.org/communityservice>



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



Saturday, April 6th Mamas-n-Papas Group will meet at **5:00 p.m.** in the Calvin Room. This group is for parents and kids. Bring a dish to share for a potluck meal. Music Minister, Huai-En will join us for a music and Pastor Susan will present a short devotion. Contact Pastor Susan for more information.



Sunday, April 7th Book Presentation, following worship. Local author and ministry professional, Jean Dudek will discuss her new book, *The Scent of Bright Light*. It is a retelling of the Old Testament story of Sarah and Hagar. Purchase copies here: [The Scent of Bright Light: Dudek, Jean K.: 9798385200450: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9798385200450). We will meet to discuss the book on Wednesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. on

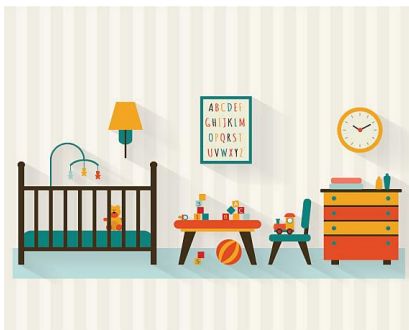
zoom. You do not need to have read the book to attend.



Sunday, April 14th - Welcome Home Program

Presentation, following worship. A representative will tell us about opportunities to support people who have been released from prison and need support to get back on their feet. The program offers mentors, job recruitment, hygiene products, and more.

<p><u>THOSE SERVING TODAY,</u> <u>SUNDAY, March 24th 10:30 AM</u> <i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>Elder Preaching: Pat Wolff Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai Lay Leader: Harry Redd Ushers: Sue & Dave Anderson Fellowship: Patti Sorini Counters: Anne & Jack Baur Sunday School Teachers: Mary Williams & Amy Macomber</p>	<p><u>THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY</u> <u>March 31st 10:30 AM</u> <i>Easter Sunday</i></p> <p>Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai Violinist: Shu-Ting Yao Trombonist: Dave Tucker Lay Leader: Anne Baur Ushers: Kelly & Dave Tucker Fellowship: Leftover potluck breakfast Counters: Macomber Family Sunday School Teachers: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>
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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.



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.

