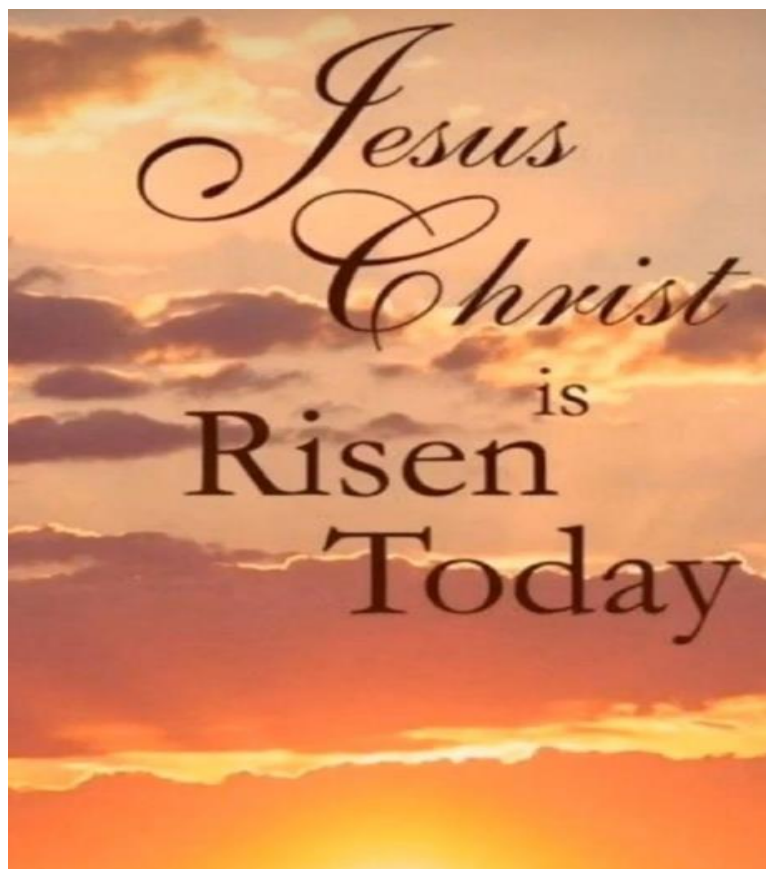


March 31, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Pianist: Nathan Chou
Trombonist: David Tucker
Lay Leader: Anne Baur
Ushers: Kelly & Dave Tucker

**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 the Pastor or anyone wearing a name tag.**

*-- Indicates that all who are able may stand.
Bold Letters Indicate congregational response

GATHERING

Prelude

Hail the Conquering Hero

G.F Handel

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Easter morning is here!

Let us worship God.

Jesus has risen.

Jesus has risen indeed!

Let us celebrate the empty tomb.

The tomb is empty!

Let us behold the risen Christ.

Easter morning is here!

Jesus has risen.

Jesus has risen indeed!

Jesus is alive in our world!

Jesus has risen indeed!

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

Christ Is Alive!

#246

**1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**3 In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

Prayer of Invocation

Good and gracious God, blanket us with your holy spirit as we worship and praise you on this glorious Easter morning. We have looked into the empty tomb and we know that you are God. We lift up songs, prayers, and scripture to you, oh Heavenly One. In this sacred place, we know that you are with us. In this place, we feel your presence. In this place, we know you more deeply. We are your Easter people. Amen

Announcements (see pages 8-10 in purple)

Prayer of Confession:

Holy One, we long to be your Easter people. You have placed the spirit of the risen Christ in our hearts. And yet, we so often miss the mark. All sorts of things get the best of us. We fall into habits that seem to take over our lives. We allow fear to keep us separate from you and from your children. We take short cuts that do not work. We let worry send us into hopeless, hand-wringing, and sleeplessness. Please give us an Easter of rebirth. Save us from ourselves. Deliver us from various tombs.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

Assurance of Pardon

*Choral Response	Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!	#591 (3 times)
	Halle, halle, hallelujah!	
	Halle, halle, hallelujah!	
	Halle, halle, hallelujah!	
	Hallelujah! Hallelujah!	

Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

Then Peter began to speak to them:

“I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;

how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;

but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

John 20:1-18

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Spirit is Alive!

Refrain:

**Day of delight and beauty unbounded,
tell the news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,
praise Christ risen from the dead!**

**1 Sing of the sun from darkness appearing;
sing of the seed from barren earth greening;
sing of creation, alleluia!
Sing of the stream from Jesus' side flowing;
sing of the saints in water made holy;
sing of salvation, alleluia! (Refrain)**

**2 Sing now of mourning turned into dancing;
sing now the mystery, hope of our glory;
sing with thanksgiving, alleluia!
Sing now of fasting turned into feasting;
sing the Lord's favor lasting forever;
sing, all things living, alleluia!**

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

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! Ludwig van Beethoven

***Doxology**

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

#606

**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**

Generous God, you pour out blessings and cover us with gifts of love. Accept these offerings for the sake of your children, that they may proclaim your mercy and embody your grace. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

***A Brief Statement of Faith**

(PC-USA *Book of Confessions*)

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and in culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Prayers of 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**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

#260

**1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone!
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood."**

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of angels,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heaven your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

Benediction

Postlude

Hail the Conquering Hero

G.F. Handel

PRAYER REQUESTS & BLESSINGS

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!** 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**.



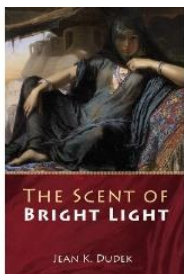
***LAST CHANCE!** RPC is collecting supplies for the **Mansfield Kaseman Clinic** through **Sunday, March 31st**. (Easter Sunday). Click here [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) to purchase items from our Amazon wish list. To view most needed items, go to: <https://www.rockvillepres.org/communityservice>



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 musical showcase 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.

RPC TO HOST TOUR DE COOKIE STAND

What is Tour de Cookie? Tour de Cookie is a fundraising event benefiting the Tree House Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County. Cyclists register to ride a 10 or 34 mile route around Rockville and stop along the way to pick up goodies at cookie stands. What is RPC up to? RPC's Friday Small Group is sponsoring a church-wide volunteer effort to sponsor a Cookie Stop. That means we need lots of volunteers to bake cookies in April and a few volunteers to work at the Cookie Stand on Saturday May 4th. How can I volunteer to help? Text Pat Wolff

202-674-8973 superwolff@hotmail.com or Patti Sorini, 301-943-3913 sorini706@gmail.com for information. How can I find out more about the Tree House? Go to <https://treehousemd.org/>



THOSE SERVING THIS SUNDAY, March 31st 10:30 AM

Easter Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Pianist: Nathan Chou

Trombonist: Dave Tucker

Lay Leader: Anne Baur

Ushers: Kelly & Dave Tucker

Fellowship: Leftover pot luck breakfast

Counters: Macomber Family

Sunday School Teachers:

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, April 7th 10:30 AM

Communion Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Violinist: Shu-Ting Yao

Lay Leader: Beth Redd

Ushers: Sherry Smith & Patti Sorini

Communion Servers: Ann Kelly & Pat Wolff

Fellowship: Can you help?

Counters: Macomber Family

Sunday School Teachers:

Amy Macomber & Mary Williams



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.



