

**April 7, 2024**  
**Rockville Presbyterian Church**  
**Rockville, MD**  
[www.rockvillepres.org](http://www.rockvillepres.org)



**Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson**  
**Guest Liturgist: Jean Dudek**  
**Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai**  
**Violinist: Shu-Ting Yao**  
**Lay Leader: Beth Redd**  
**Ushers: Sherry Smith & Patti Sorini**  
**Communion Servers: Ann Kelly & Patti Sorini**

**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.**

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

## GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Prelude in C**

**Huai-En Tsai**

**Welcome\***

**\*Call to Worship**

We are God's Easter people.

**We come to worship in the spirit of resurrection.**

We are God's Easter people.

**We come to worship in the spirit of the empty tomb.**

We are God's Easter people.

**We come to worship in the spirit of rebirth.**

We are God's Easter people.

**We come to worship in the spirit of death transformed.**

We are God's Easter people.

**We come to worship in the newness of spring.**

We are God's Easter people.

**We come to worship in the spirit of Jesus Christ, raised to new life.**

**Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

**Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!!**

**#248**

**1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!**

**Celebrate this day of days!**

**Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:  
all creation is amazed.**

**In the desert all-surrounding,  
see, a spreading tree has grown.**

**Healing leaves of grace abounding  
bring a taste of love unknown.**

**2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits  
from the caverns of despair.**

**Walk with gladness in the morning.  
See what love can do and dare.**

**Drink the wine of resurrection,  
not a servant, but a friend.  
Jesus is our strong companion.  
Joy and peace shall never end.**

**3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven  
nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation  
where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:  
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
God the First and Last is with us.  
Sing Hosanna everyone!**

### **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 crafted us to be your Easter people. We are fresh from the joy of the empty tomb. Songs and praises still ring in our ears. But, we are so easily distracted. This world contains all manner of diversions that grab our attention. At times, we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us for not BEING the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God. Claim us as your Easter people.**

#### **Silence**

## Assurance of Pardon

**\*Choral Response:        Halle, Halle Hallelujah        #591 (refrain only 3 times)**

Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah  
Halle, halle, hallelujah  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**\*Passing of the Peace**

## Children's Sermon

### Prayer of Illumination

Loving God, in this glorious Easter season, 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.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

#### Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;

**the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.**

But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;

**for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.**

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;

**no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.**

No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;

**for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.**

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

**They shall not build and another inhabit;**

they shall not plant and another eat;

**for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.**

They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well.

**Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.**

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;

**but the serpent—its food shall be dust!**

They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

## Genesis 21:1-21

**21** The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. **2** Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. **3** Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. **4** And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. **5** Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. **6** Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." **7** And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

**8** The child grew and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. **9** But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.<sup>a</sup> **10** So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." **11** The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. **12** But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. **13** As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." **14** So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. **15** When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. **16** Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. **17** And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. **18** Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." **19** Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. **20** God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. **21** He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Easter People: Sarah and Hagar**

**\*Unity Hymn**

**A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!**

**#258**

1 A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New songs throughout the world shall ring:  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
ascends unto the throne of God.

2 The holy apostolic band  
upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
and with his followers they see  
their Lord ascend in majesty.

3 To all, the shining angels cry,  
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?  
This is the Savior!" thus they say;  
"this is his glorious triumph-day."

4 "You see him now, ascending high  
up to the portals of the sky.  
Hereafter you shall Jesus see  
returning in great majesty."

5 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord.  
You are, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one.

**RESPONDING**

## Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Church offerings can be made electronically through our website: [www.Rockvillepres.org](http://www.Rockvillepres.org) or by scanning our QR code with your phone.



## Offering

Offering Anthem

Something for Thee

Robert Lowry

\*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

\*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!"

**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**

**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**

***Hosanna***

**Carl Tuttle**



## Prayer Requests & Blessings

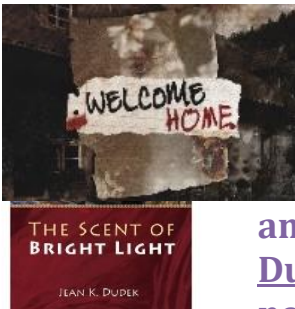
We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Joan Romaine's sister, Debbie, who is undergoing treatment for cancer; 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



Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 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](#). You do not need to have read the book to attend.



Mansfield Kaseman  
**HEALTH CLINIC**

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> - 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. The Mission Committee will lead us in assembling hygiene care packets for Welcome Home Participants.

April 17: Join Community Reach at 10:00am for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new location of the Kaseman Clinic. 9420 Key West Ave Ste. 400,

Rockville, MD 20850. For more information, go to <https://www.cmrocks.org/mkhcrelocation>



**April 21: Celebrate Earth Day - Join the Mission Committee for 30 minutes after church to pick up trash in the neighborhood. Wear your RPC shirts and bring your own gloves!**



**Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at noon, Lunch Bunch will meet in the Calvin Room. Bring your lunch and enjoy some fellowship!**

### **RPC TO HOST TOUR DE COOKIE STAND**



**The Tour de Cookie benefiting the Tree House Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County is back for another year of fun, fitness, and fundraising! The event takes place on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Cyclists Register individuals and families to ride bicycles on a 10 or 34 mile route dotted with cookie stops, to raise money benefiting Montgomery County's most vulnerable children. RPC's Friday Small Group is sponsoring a church-wide volunteer effort to sponsor a**

**Cookie Stop. How can I volunteer to help bake cookies or man the booth? Contact Pat Wolff ([superwolff@hotmail.com](mailto:superwolff@hotmail.com)) or Patti Sorini, ([sorini706@gmail.com](mailto:sorini706@gmail.com)). If you have signed up to bake, please bring your cookies in the designated wrappers to church any Sunday in April. For more information about the event or Tree House click [HERE](#).**



**Rainbow Place, Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. We will honor Rainbow Place staff and volunteers with a special worship service and reception.**

**THOSE SERVING THIS**  
**SUNDAY, April 7<sup>th</sup> 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 & Patti Sorini**  
**Fellowship: Patti Sorini**

**THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM**

**Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson**  
**Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai**  
**Lay Leader: Mike Herzfeld**  
**Ushers: Pat Wolff & Betty Harbaugh**  
**Communion Servers: Ann Kelly & Pat Wolff**  
**Fellowship: TBD**  
**Counters: Anne & Jack Baur**

**Counters: Amy & Jerry Macomber**  
**Sunday School Teachers:**  
**Amy Macomber & Mary Williams**

**Sunday School Teachers: Joel**  
**Masselink,**  
**Carol Bogezi, & 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.



***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***



ROCKVILLE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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**215 West Montgomery Ave.  
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301-762-3363**

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