

April 14, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Lay Leader: Mike Herzfeld

Ushers: Pat Wolff & Betty Harbaugh

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

Power in the Blood

Lewis E. Jones

Welcome*

***Call to Worship**

We are God's Easter people.

We are inspired by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are God's Easter people.

We find meaning in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are God's Easter people.

We know God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are God's Easter people.

We follow the path of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are God's Easter people.

Our faith is made new in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are God's Easter people.

Let us worship God.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Be Not Afraid

#243 (3 times)

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Announcements (See pages 6-8 in purple)

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.**

Prayer of Confession:

Great God of the resurrection, you set us free every day, and yet, we construct various prisons for ourselves. We are captive to greed, captive to fear, captive to doubt, captive to the ways of this world. You have given us keys to the gates that hold us. We confess that the depth of your

freedom is often too much for our fragile hearts. Forgive us. Help us. Show us the way out of captivity.

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.

1st Reading

Psalm 142

With my voice I cry to the Lord;

With my voice I make supplication to the Lord.

I pour out my complaint before God;

I tell my trouble before God.

When my spirit is faint, you know my way.

In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

Look on my right hand and see— there is no one who takes notice of me;

No refuge remains to me; no one cares for me.

I cry to you, O Lord;

I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low.

Save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name.

The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Easter People: The Disbelieving Disciples

*Unity Hymn

In the Bulb There is a Flower

#250

1. In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2. There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

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

Offering Anthem **Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus** **William J. Kirkpatrick**

***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**

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.

***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 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**

This Joyful Eastertide

#244

This joyful Eastertide,
away with care and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain:

*Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber,
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number.

Refrain:

*Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

Death's flood hath lost its chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver,

Refrain:

*Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

Benediction

Postlude

The Power of Your Love

Geoff Bullock

PRAYER REQUESTS & BLESSINGS

New to the Prayer list:

- ❖ We celebrate Laurie Smith as she welcomes a new grandson, Winston, born on Easter morning; Sue Anderson's son, Christian, as he seeks help for mental issues; and Laurie Smith as she deals with shingles.

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; Mason Dencker; and Jeff Taylor, (Bob Taylor's son), who has been diagnosed with melanoma.

Our Homebound:

- ❖ Beth McDonald (Landfair) and Bill Landfair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



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. 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 20: Interfaith Works Community Appreciation Event, 9am-12pm. Join us for breakfast and a tour of the Clothing Center and Food Pantry. For more information, go to: <https://www.iworksmc.org/upcoming-events/iw-community-appreciation-event>



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!



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, 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) or Patti Sorini, (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

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



Calling all graduates and parents! Graduation season is almost upon us. A slideshow showcasing our graduates and those who are being promoted will be presented in June. I am asking the graduates of high school and college; those who are being promoted from preschool to kindergarten; 5th grade to middle school; and 8th grade to high school, to send pictures, jpg format. Please send information about the graduate/promoted to me to be included in the slideshow. The information should include: where the student was promoted/graduated, and where they will go after. If it is a college graduate, what plans they have in the near future. I will need this no later than **May 26th**. Please send the photos and information to Amy Macomber at amacomber2@verizon.net. My cell phone is 240-274-2070 if you have any questions. Thank you.



Pentecost Choir Practice - Sundays in May, 9:30am-10:00am, in the Sanctuary.

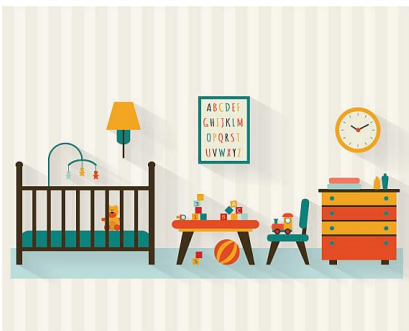
Anyone interested in singing with the community, please join Minister of Music, Huai-En Tsai, Sundays in May, as he teaches us a special Pentecost song to share during Pentecost worship on May 19th. All individuals are welcome and do not have to have any prior singing experience.

THOSE SERVING THIS SUNDAY, April 14th

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Mike Herzfeld
Ushers: Pat Wolff & Betty Harbaugh
Fellowship: Laurie Smith
Counters: Anne & Jack Baur
Sunday School Teachers:
 Joel Masselink, Carol Bogezi, & Elizabeth Dawson

THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, April 21st

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Mary Ann Eull
Ushers: Beth & Harry Redd
Fellowship: Jie Yu
Counters: Amy & Jerry Macomber
Sunday School Teachers:
 Mary Williams & Elke Herzfeld



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.