

April 21, 2024
Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville, MD
www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Lay Leader: Dave Tucker

Ushers: Beth & Harry Redd

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

God's Eye is on the Sparrow

Charles H. Gabriel

Welcome*

*Call to Worship

Sing a new song!

Make a joyful noise!

Let the sea roar,

And let the sky shimmer.

Let the earth be glad.

Let the mountains spring with new life.

Let the creatures shout praise.

Let the children run and roll.

Let the old laugh with deep wisdom.

Let the young listen, wide-eyed and wondering.

And let us worship God.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

Morning Has Broken

#664

1 Morning has broken

like the first morning;

blackbird has spoken

like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing

fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall

sunlit from heaven,

like the first dewfall

on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness

of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness

where God's feet pass.

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning,
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation;
praise every morning,
God's re-creation
of the new day!**

Announcements (See pages 7-10 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:

Creator God, maker of all that is, seen and unseen, we bow before you. You gifted this magnificent world to us, giving us dominion over this planet. You filled the oceans, formed the mountains, raised up the trees, fertilized the flowers, and nursed the creatures. You tell us that it is all for us. Oh God, our God, how we have squandered this gift. We confess our misuse of this glorious home called Earth. Through what we have done and what we have left undone, we have polluted your waters, darkened your skies, weakened your mountains, and neglected your creatures. Hear our confession, oh God. Save us from our ignorance and ambivalence. Save your world from us. Make us your Easter people as we seek to learn new ways to start again.

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 23

Lord is my shepherd,

I shall not want.

God makes me lie down in green pastures;

God leads me beside still waters;

God restores my soul.

God leads me in right paths for God's name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

Acts 4:5-12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by

the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Easter People: Peter, the Rock

***Unity Hymn**

God of the Sparrow

#22

1 God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

2 God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

3 God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

4 God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

5 God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

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

In God's Time

Diane Ball

*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**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

#20

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors;
God made their tiny wings.

(Refrain)

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

(Refrain)

3 The cold wind in the winter,

the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.
(Refrain)

4 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.
(Refrain)

Benediction

Postlude

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

PRAYER REQUESTS & BLESSINGS

New to the Prayer list:

- ❖ The Sorini family as they grieve the sudden passing of Marc's aunt, Diana, who died after a car accident.

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Laurie Smith as she welcomes a new grandson, Winston, born on Easter morning; Sue Anderson's son, Christian; Laurie Smith as she deals with shingles; 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



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!



Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church will be celebrating their 19th Anniversary on **Sunday April 28th at 1:00pm**. Pastor Susan will preach. Pastor Cynthia and the EIPC congregation are thankful to the RPC staff and elders. A festive reception will follow the worship service. Please attend if you are able!



There will be a brief congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, April 28th, for the purpose of electing a member of the Board of Trustees. Don't forget to vote!



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. 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 5th. We will honor Rainbow Place staff and volunteers with a special worship service and reception. Executive Director Olu Adebayo will preach the sermon!



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 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.



Recycle Your Eclipse Glasses

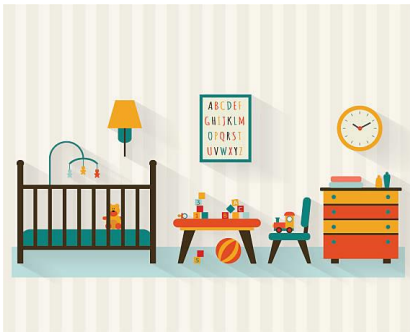
RPC is collecting eclipse glasses for recycling and distribution around the globe. This program, coordinated by Eclipse Glasses USA, is designed to ensure that as many people as possible, especially school children in countries with limited resources, can safely experience the wonder of a solar eclipse. **Please bring your eclipse glasses to church and put them in the collection box in the Calvin Room by May 19.**

**THOSE SERVING THIS
SUNDAY, April 21st**

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

**THOSE SERVING
NEXT SUNDAY, April 28th**

Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson
Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai
Lay Leader: Ameer Ranaivoarijaona
Ushers: Amy & Sean Macomber
Fellowship: Jie Yu
Counters: Anne & Jack Baur
Sunday School Teachers: Pat Wolff and
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

**215 West Montgomery Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850
301-762-3363**
