

April 28, 2024

# Rockville Presbyterian Church

[www.rockvillepres.org](http://www.rockvillepres.org)



**Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson**

**Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai**

**Lay Leader: Aimee Ranaivoarijaona**

**Ushers: Amy & Sean Macomber**

**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

Blessed Assurance

Phoebe P. Knapp

Welcome\*

**\*Call to Worship**

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, and productive.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.**

**Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

**Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**

**#291**

*Refrain:*

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness,*

*blow through the wilderness, calling and free.*

*Spirit, spirit of restlessness,*

*stir me from placidness,*

*wind, wind on the sea.*

**1 You moved on the waters;  
you called to the deep;  
then you coaxed up the mountains  
from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons  
you called to each thing,  
"Awake from your slumbers  
and rise on your wings." (Refrain)**

**2 You swept through the desert;  
you stung with the sand;  
and you goaded your people  
with a law and a land.  
When they were confounded  
with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets  
to open their eyes. (Refrain)**

**3 You sang in a stable;  
you cried from a hill;  
then you whispered in silence  
when the whole world was still.  
And down in the city,  
you called once again  
when you blew through your people  
on the rush of the wind. (Refrain)**

**4 You call from tomorrow;  
you break ancient schemes;  
from the bondage of sorrow  
the captives dream dreams.  
Our women see visions;  
our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions  
your people arise. (Refrain)**

## **Announcements**

### **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:**

**Divine Creator, maker of all that is seen and unseen. We confess that your magnificence is often too much for us. We confess that we neglect you. We confess that we do not stop ourselves from wandering away from you. We confess that we often settle for contentment, rather than risk seeking more. Forgive us for the apathy that lets us go though the motions of living a faithful life. Help us. Show us. Please.**

### **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**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**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**

**Psalm 22**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation,

**My vows I will pay before those who fear God.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

**Those who seek God shall praise the Lord.**

May your hearts live forever!

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.**

And all the families of the nations shall worship before the Lord,

**For dominion belongs to the Lord.**

And the Lord rules over the nations,

**To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down.**

Before God shall bow all who go down to the dust,

**And I shall live for God.**

Posterity will serve God,

**Future generations will be told about the Lord.**

And proclaim the Lord's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

**Saying that God has done it.**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**The Vine and the Branch**

**\*Unity Hymn**

**Praise the Source of Faith and Learning**

**#2004**

- 1. Praise the source of faith and learning that has sparked and stoked the mind with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed. Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.**
- 2. God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart. Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.**
- 3. May our faith redeem the blunder of believing that our thought has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught. May our learning curb the error which unthinking faith can breed lest we justify some terror with an antiquated creed.**
- 4. As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow; blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course, till they join as one, returning praise and thanks to you, their Source.**

## 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

Softly and Tenderly

Will L. Thompson

### \*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**

**Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

**#547**

**1 “Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone.**

**Waking, sleeping, I am with you,  
you are my own.**

**In my love’s baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.**

**Go, my children, with my blessing,  
you are my own.”**

**2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.**

**Here you learned how much I love you,  
what I can cure.**

**Here you heard my dear Son’s story;  
here you touched him, saw his glory.**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.”**

**3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me.**

**Grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.**

**Here my Spirit’s power filled you;  
here my tender comfort stilled you.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
joyful and free.”**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Rejoice, the Lord is King**

**John Darwall**



**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

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

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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.*





Sunday, April 28, 2024

Welcome to Our Family of Worship

Rockville Presbyterian Church

[ROCKVILLEPRES.ORG](http://ROCKVILLEPRES.ORG)

### PRAYER REQUESTS & BLESSINGS

#### New to the Prayer list:

Pastor Karen Doty and family as they grieve the death of her husband Verlin.

#### We continue to pray for:

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



**Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church** will be celebrating their 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on **Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup>**. We will honor Rainbow Place staff and volunteers with a special worship service and reception. Executive Director Olu Adebayo will preach the sermon!



**Community Reach Annual Gala:** On Saturday, **May 11<sup>th</sup>**, 6-10 pm, Community Reach will host their annual gala that supports Reach's programs. Are you interested in attending or volunteering? For more information, go to <https://www.cmrocks.org/events>



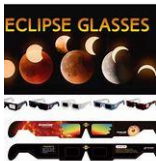
**Calling all graduates and parents! Graduation season is almost upon us. A slideshow showcasing our graduates and those who are being promoted will be presented in June.** I am asking the graduates of high school and college; those who are being promoted from preschool to kindergarten; 5<sup>th</sup> grade to middle school; and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please send the photos and information to Amy Macomber at [amacomber2@verizon.net](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 28th**

**Pastor:** Rev. Susan Graceson  
**Minister of Music:** Huai-En Tsai  
**Lay Leader:** Aimee Ranaivoarijaona  
**Ushers:** Amy & Sean Macomber  
**Fellowship:** Volunteers needed  
**Counters:** Anne & Jack Baur  
**Sunday School Teachers:** Pat Wolff & Elizabeth Dawson

**THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, May, 5th**

**Pastor:** Rev. Susan Graceson  
**Minister of Music:** Huai-En Tsai  
**Violinist:** Shu-Ting Yao  
**Lay Leader:** Joel Masselink  
**Ushers:** Rachel Jung & Mike Herzfeld  
**Communion Servers:** Mary Ann Eull & Patti Sorini  
**Fellowship:** Volunteers needed  
**Counters:** Amy & Jerry Macomber  
**Sunday School Teachers:** Games Day with Marc Sorini