



Rockville United Church

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ

7th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

*CALL TO WORSHIP

It is good and pleasant when we worship together in unity!

We are like precious oil that mends our hurts and heals our hearts.

It is good and pleasant when we serve together in unity!

We are like the fresh dew of a new morning and the majesty of the mountains.

God welcomes us as we are and makes room for us to be with one another.

From east to west, from north to south, we serve God with gladness and worship

God's holy name.

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Chalice Hymnal, No. 2

(verses 1-3)

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Maker, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Creator of All, we join our minds and hearts with the people of our planet Earth.

We recognize the deep bond that we have with each created being. We rejoice in your sacred presence among us and within us. Divine Oneness, we celebrate the goodness, the beauty, the talents, and the spirituality all all our siblings. We join in solidarity with

all those who suffer in any way. Rekindle our love, revitalize our compassion, and renew our awareness of the unity we share with all beings. Amen

Joyce Rupp, adapted

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Traditional Danish

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 133

Psalms for Praying Nan C. Merrill

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.
It is like vistas seen from atop a mountain one has climbed...
Or like the stillness of a sunset after a long day's work.
It is like a shimmering rainbow, breaking through a summer rain.
When men and women dwell in harmony, the star of Truth appears.
May it be so.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

WORD FOR CHILDREN

I Am You

Bob Davis

by Refiloe Moahloli, illustrated by Zinelda McDonald

Following the “Word for Children,” we invite children (ages 3 years—5th grade) to attend a Sunday School class, dismissing to the classroom on the lower level through the front side door of the sanctuary. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany your child(ren) if you choose; please pick up children in their classroom following the worship service. Visitors are welcome.

Nursery care for infants through age 3 is available in the nursery on the lower level.

Our nursery caregiver is Caitlin Vredenburg. Our nursery helper is Marian Coger.

ANTHEM

The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams

SCRIPTURE

John 17:1-11

The Inclusive Bible

After Jesus said this, he looked up to heaven and said, “Abba, the hour has come!
Glorify your Only Begotten that I may glorify you, through the authority you’ve given me over all humankind, by bestowing eternal life on all those you gave me.
And this is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent, Jesus, the Messiah. I have given you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. Now, Abba, glorify me with your own glory, the glory I had with you before the world began. I have manifested your Name to those you gave me from the world.

They were yours, and you gave them to me; and now they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you've entrusted to me does indeed come from you. I entrusted to the the message you entrusted to me, and they received it. They know that I really came from you; they believe it was you who sent me. And it's for them that I pray—not for the world, but for these you've given me — for they are really yours, just as all that belongs to me is yours, and all that belongs to you is mine. It is in them that I have been glorified. I am in the world no more, but while I am coming to you, they are still in the world. Abba, holy God, protect those whom you have given me with your Name—the Name that you gave me—that they may be one, even as we are one.

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

“We Are One”

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

*HYMN

We Are One in the Spirit
(verses 1–3)

Chalice Hymnal, No. 494

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

(Refrain)

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

(Refrain)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTIONS

Mary Wallace, Membership Chair

Sara Ann Ketchum, Christina Sainato, Bob Davis, Rev. Guy Johnson

GREETINGS

Friends in Christ, thank you for journeying with us. It is in our relationships with one another, as well as in our shared worship, study, reflection, and service, that the life of this community of faith is built.

STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)

We covenant with God and with each other to be a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the United Church of Christ. Grateful for our particular traditions within the larger body of Christ, we are working for a coming church that will be truly catholic, truly reformed, and truly evangelical. We are open to and affirming of all people of faith, regardless of race, gender, age, class, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation. We will order our common life according to the insights of the Gospel as we have received it through the witness of scripture and church tradition, and as we experience its unfolding truth in our time. We seek to be a reconciling and caring community working for the liberation of all persons and striving to foster among everyone patterns of individual and corporate responsibility. In our coming and going together, we will dedicate our efforts to increase the love of God and neighbor among adults, youth and children.

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FOR JOINING MEMBERS Chris Frentrup, Council President **STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FROM FELLOW MEMBERS**

ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

Understanding the content of our covenant and hearing the expectations of fellow members, do you accept our invitation to membership?

If so, answer: “Yes, with the help of God and my fellow members.”

WELCOME OF CONGREGATION

Mary Wallace, Membership Chair

Do you, the members of Rockville United Church accept these people as fellow members? If so, answer: “We do with joy!”

All: *We do with joy!*

WORDS OF WELCOME (unison)

We welcome you with thanksgiving as partners in the ministries of Rockville United Church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Christ. God grant that together we may live out the claims of our faith and continue to grow into the fullness and maturity of life known in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

Our God Our Help In Ages Past

Pres. Hymnal, No. 210

(verses 1, 2, 3 & 5)

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home;

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting You art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be Thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: *Receive our prayers.*

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison)

***Our Loving God 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.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.***

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

***Eternal God, You create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and
strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may continue to give ourselves in love and service
to one another and to you. Amen.***

***HYMN**

Send Me Jesus

tune, Spiral No. 152

Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me Jesus, send me out!
Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me Jesus, lead me on!

Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, fill me Jesus, fill me up!
Hold me, Jesus, hold me Jesus, hold me Jesus, hold me close!

Lift me, Jesus, lift me Jesus, lift me Jesus, lift me high!
Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me Jesus, send me out!

***BENEDICTION**

Eternal Light, shine in our lives.
Eternal Rock, ground us in our faith.
Eternal Bread, fill us with your grace.
Eternal Fire, inspire us with your power.
Eternal God, hold us in your heart now and forevermore. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Suzanne Junod

Digital Host: John Junod

Greeter: Ed Peterson

Welcome Table: Beth Frentrup

Special thanks to Johnathan Guest for sharing his musical talents with us this morning.

Cover photo by Martin Rancourt on unsplash.com.

Welcome to Rockville United Church!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We trust that you will find RUC to be a welcoming and engaging place to explore the life of faith within a community that honors each person's spiritual journey. We encourage you to ask questions, visit our website, and share your contact information at the welcome table near the front doors. I hope to greet you personally following worship, and invite you to contact me.

*Blessings,
Rev. Jennifer Knutsen
jennifer@rockvilleunitedchurch.org*

Our complimentary Wi-Fi network is **RUC Mesh**. The password is **heavenly**.



Please Scan Me To Give To RUC.



Rockville United Church

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
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(Office Hours: Wed, Fri—10am to 3pm or by appointment)

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light