



## Rockville United Church

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

5th Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025 ~ Hybrid Worship

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

## CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### GATHERING MUSIC

*Alleluia*

South African

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

More than kind or charitable, or even humane  
this Love that calls us takes on flesh and bone and vulnerability

***We gather here to practice Love's solidarity,  
rising up in the valleys and shadows of death.***

More than nice, or agreeable, or even polite  
this Love that forms us risks siding with the last and the least

***We come together to become Love's liberation  
building collective power to resist injustice.***

More than tolerant or accepting, or even affirming  
this Love that guides us opens to new stories of harm  
and new visions of flourishing

***We join together to embody Love's accountability  
laying down our defenses to grow beyond the edges of our knowing.***

More than peaceful or unifying, or even friendly  
this Love that compels us dares to imagine beyond empire

***We worship to remember Love's future  
praying, praising, and protesting until Love's kin-dom comes.***

### \*HYMN

***I Woke Up This Morning***

Chalice Hymnal, No. 623

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Love

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah

I'm singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus...

I'm walking and talking with my mind stayed on Jesus...

You can't hate your neighbor with your mind stayed on Jesus...

## PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

*Love beyond all knowing, we recognize how deeply limited our understanding of love is, how often we fail to recognize Love's true practice and meaning, how much the powers and principalities of this world co-opt the idea of "love" for death-dealing purposes. In the silence of our hearts, let us call to awareness the misunderstandings of love that have shaped us as individuals and the misunderstandings of love that shape us as communities.*

(moment of silence)

For the ways we have wounded your Love,  
**O God, forgive us. Amen.**

## WORDS OF GRACE

Let your spirit receive this assurance:  
in all these things we are more than forgiven through the One who loves us.  
**Therefore, we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Redeemer. Thanks be to God.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

**Seven-fold Amen**

Reid

## SCRIPTURE

**Psalms 148**

Interpretation by Nan C. Merrill

Praise the Blessed One!  
Give praise from the heavens, and from all ends of the earth!  
Give praise, all you angels, angels of earth and of heaven!  
Give praise, sun and moon, give praise, all you shining stars!  
Give praise, all universes, the whole cosmos of Creation!

Praise the Blessed One!  
For through Love all was created  
and firmly fixed forever and ever;  
yes, the pattern of creation was established.

Give praise to the Beloved,  
all the earth, all that swim in the deep,  
and all the winged ones in the air!  
Give praise, all mountains and hills, all trees and all minerals!  
Give praise, all four-legged and all that creep on the ground!  
Leaders of the nations and all peoples, young and old, give praise!  
Unite together in all your diversity, that peace and harmony might flourish on earth!

Let all people praise the Beloved, who is exalted in heaven and on earth;  
whose glory is above heaven and earth.

For all are called to be friends, companions to the true Friend,  
giving their lives joyfully as co-creators and people of peace!

Praises be to the Blessed One,  
the very Breath of our breath, the very Heart of our heart!

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

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

## **WORD FOR CHILDREN**

### The Circles All Around Us

Pastor Jennifer

by Brad and Kristi Montague

Children (ages 3 years old through 5th grade) are invited to attend a Sunday School faith formation class. Following the Word for Children, children will dismiss with their teachers to the classrooms on the lower level, through the front side door of the sanctuary. Parents/guardians, please pick up children in their classroom following the worship service. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany their child(ren) if they choose. 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 Cindy Livingston.

## **ANTHEM**

### ***Sending You Light***

Demore

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **John 13:31-35**

The Inclusive Bible

“Now is the Chosen One glorified and God is glorified as well. If God is glorified as well. If God had been glorified, God will in turn glorify the Chosen One and will do so very soon. My little children, I won’t be with you much longer. You’ll look for me, but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you: where I am going, you cannot come, I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you’re to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you’re my disciples: that you truly love one another.”

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

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

## **CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**    ***Amen For Choir***

Abrahams

## **SERMON**

“Love In Action”

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

**\*HYMN**

***Jesu, Jesu***

Chalice Hymnal, No. 600

Refrain:

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with you love, show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have form you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
Leader and servant, and friend to them.

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,  
neighbors are near and far away.

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love,  
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you.

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**Refrain:** One: Holy One, in your mercy,

**All:** *Receive our prayers.*

**THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES**

(interpretation of John Philip Newell)

***Ground of all being, Mother of Life, Father of the universe,***

***Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.***

***May we know your presence,***

***may your longings be our longings***

***in heart and in action.***

***May there be food for the human family today***

***and for the whole earth community.***

***Forgive us the falseness of what we have done***

***as we forgive those who are untrue to us.***

***Do not forsake us in our time of conflict***

***but lead us into new beginnings.***

***For the light of life, the vitality of life, and the glory of life***

***are yours now and forever. Amen.***

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Jesus said, love one another.

Through our offerings, let us love as Jesus loves us.

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

*Let Love be our offering.*

*Let Love be our giving.*

*Let Love be our dedication.*

*Let Love be our calling.*

*Let Love be our thanksgiving.*

*Let Love be our prayer.*

*Amen.*

**\*HYMN**

***Fill the World with Love***

Chalice Hymnal, No. 467

(verses 1, 3 & 4)

With the vision in our minds of how the world could be,  
and the fullness of our hearts from the suffering we see;  
when we make all that we are and have part of God's destiny,  
we can fill the world with love, we can fill the world with love.

We whose spirits long to share, long to comfort and to heal,  
know that when we act alone, hope is difficult to feel;  
but together as we labor God's compassion to reveal  
we will fill the world with love, we will fill the world with love.

Let us hesitate no longer in our doubt and our dismay;  
there's a pow'r at work within us that has promised a new day.  
And the time will surely come, it will not be long delayed  
when God fills the world with love, when God fills the world with love.

## **\*BENEDICTION**

People of Love, as you go from this place,  
let love be what blesses you,  
love that is not nice or polite,  
but knows how to sing in the midst of despair  
how to rise up in the midst of death  
how to hold fast in the midst of chaos  
Let love be the blessing you share,  
love that is not tolerant or charitable  
but knows how to care when all seems hopeless  
how to listen when others are silenced  
how to come alongside when no one else will.  
People of Love, let love be your blessing,  
this day and every day until glory comes.

## **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Service Prayers by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as Join the Movement  
toward Racial Justice Curator with UCC National Ministries.*

## **Thanks to our worship helpers today!**

Liturgist: Susan Kirby

Digital Host: Dan Hockensmith

Greeters: Stephen and Anja Sugg

Welcome Table: Beth Frentrup

## 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](mailto: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  
355 Linthicum Street, Rockville, Maryland 20851  
301-424-6733 ~ [www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org](http://www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org)  
(Office Hours: Wed, Fri—10am to 3pm or by appointment)  
Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light

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