



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025 ~ Hybrid Worship

Cover image from unsplash.com by Lysann Weber

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Gather Us In

Haugen

Here in this place, the new light is streaming,
shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in; our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus is coming.

Shout hosanna!

He's riding on a donkey.

Shout hosanna!

Open the gates.

Shout hosanna!

Don't be afraid.

Shout hosanna!

Open your hearts.

Shout hosanna!

Wave the branches.

Shout hosanna!

Spread out your coats.

Shout hosanna!

Make a way.

Shout hosanna!

Let peace enter in.

Shout hosanna!

Worship with praise.

Shout hosanna!

*HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
(verses 1, 2 & 3)

Chalice Hymnal, No. 192

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are a child of Israel, Great David's greater son;
you ride in lowly triumph, Messiah, blessed one!

The company of angels are praising you on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

As you received their praises, now hear us as we pray.
Since you delight in goodness, rule in our hearts today.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

We praise you Holy One for the life of Jesus who shows us what it means to stand strong in the face of challenges, to rise above rancor with grace and humility, to resist the tyrannical power of empire, to ride triumphantly for the sake of justice. Even as we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we know there is more to the story of this Holy Week. We may want to turn away from the betrayals, hardships, and suffering of the Passion Story, just as we too often turn away from the hardships and suffering of people in our own time. Forgive us when our focus slips and we shrink in fear. Help us to stay engaged, renew our strength, embolden our resolve, and increase our faithfulness for the sake of the world that you so love, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF GRACE

Receive this good news: God reaches out to us to draw us close. Receive now the forgiving grace and reconciling love of God, as we greet one another with the peace of Christ.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to greet your neighbors with these or similar words.

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Jesus Remember Me

Taize

SCRIPTURE**Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29** interpretation by Nan C. Merrill

We give thanks to you, O Beloved, for you are kind; your steadfast love endures forever! Let every nation proclaim, "Your steadfast love endures forever." Yes, you opened to me the gates of truth and justice that I might enter through them. Praise be to you, O Merciful One! This is the door to life; those who know love shall enter through it. I give thanks to you, O Beloved, who answer our prayers and invite us to new life. The stone which the builders rejected has become the foundation of our lives. This, O Eternal Listener, is your work; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which you have made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Remain ever by our side, O Friend! We welcome you into our hearts as Loving Companion Presence! Blessed are all who enter through your gates! Blessed are all who dwell in the house of love! For you lead the way, you forgive our misguided ways, and you bring light into darkness. Come, all you who will, partake of the great banquet! You are my beloved, and I will give thanks to you; you are my beloved, greatly will I praise you! We give thanks to you, O Blessed One, for you are kind; your steadfast love endures for ever!

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Jennifer

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.

ANTHEM***Ride On Jesus Ride***

Trad. African American

SCRIPTURE**Luke 19:28-40**

Jesus went ahead up to Jerusalem. Approaching Bethphage and Bethany, near what is called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions. "Go into the village ahead of you. Upon entering it, you'll find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and lead it back. If anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it.'" They departed on their errand and found things just as Jesus had said. As they untied the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you doing that?" They explained that the Rabbi needed it. Then the disciples led the animal to Jesus and, laying their cloaks on it, helped him mount. People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along. As they reached the descent from the Mount of

Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” Jesus replied, “I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!”

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

All: *Thanks be to God.*

***HYMN**

Rise Up, O Saints of God

Chalice Hymnal, No. 611

(verses 1 and 2)

Rise up, O saints of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom tarries long;
Bring in the day of Christlike love
And end the night of wrong.

SERMON

“A Donkey and a Lamb”

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

ANTHEM

Behold the Lamb of God

Helgen

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: *Receive our prayers.*

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES

*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

As you receive the prayers of our hearts, receive now the gifts of our hands, that they might bring forth your justice and mercy in our world.

Offertory

*Doxology

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

We place these gifts before you, O God, as palms were placed before Jesus long ago. We lay them on your altar in praise and thanksgiving. We offer them that they may become a greater blessing through your grace, to bring healing and wholeness to the world. Amen.

*HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

Chalice Hymnal, No. 200

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross, for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!

*BENEDICTION

The one who rode humbly and bravely into Jerusalem, even in the face of pain and suffering, journeys with us still, giving us courage to confront enduring injustices.

The one who was betrayed, derided, and persecuted, even to the point of death, sends us forth to bring justice and healing to our broken hearts and hurting world.

The one whose Spirit lives among us, even now and forever, fills us with hope in the power of love to overcome evil.

Go into the world in peace, trusting the love of God, even in times of deep despair.

Go into the world in faith trusting the promise of new life yet to be revealed.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen, Amen

Trad. African American

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Elizabeth Cooper-Martin

Digital Host: Dan Hockensmith

Welcome Table: Cathy Crouch

Greeter: Dale Epley

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

355 Linthicum Street, Rockville, Maryland 20851

301-424-6733 ~ www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org

(Office Hours: Wed, Fri—10am to 3pm or by appointment)

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light