



Rockville United Church

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

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 9, 2025 ~ Hybrid Worship

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Gather Us In (verse 1)

Chancel Hymnal, No. 284

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

Be still, and know that God is.

God was, also, in the beginning,

And when all human striving has ceased, God will still be.

From everlasting to everlasting, God is God,

And alone is worthy to be praised.

Let us sing praise to God.

*HYMN

O For A World (vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5)

Chancel Hymnal, No. 683

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Help me, oh God, to sing the songs of my heart.

In times of injustice and uncertainty,

help me not to waver, not to stutter

or fall silent and be muted.

Help me, oh God, to sing the songs of my heart.

In times of joy and promise,

replenish me with songs of praise.

Help me live joyfully

and find serenity and beauty in the smallest things.

Help me, oh God, to sing songs of freedom,

to cherish, rest, and bask in them

so that I live inspired.

Help me, oh God, to sing the songs of your heart

so that I can imagine, create,

and begin again, fierce and unbothered.

So that I can begin anew,

surrounded by a cloud of freedom workers and justice seekers.

Help me to stand boldly and assured in the song you gave me

before I was born. Amen.

Renee Harrison

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 138

The Inclusive Bible

I thank you with all my heart; I sing your praise before the gods. I bow down in front of your holy Temple and praise your Name because of your love and faithfulness, for you have put above everything else your Name and your word. When I called, you answered me—you made me bold and strong of heart. All the rulers of the earth will praise you, Yahweh, when they hear the words of your mouth. They will sing about what you have done, Yahweh, and about your great glory. Even though you are so high above, you care for the lowly and see arrogant people from far away. Even when I'm surrounded by troubles, you keep me safe; you oppose the anger of my enemies, and save me with your right hand. You will do everything you have promised me. Yahweh, your love is eternal; don't abandon the work of your hands.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

WORD FOR CHILDRENUnder and Over the Waves

by Kate Messner; illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal

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 Mariana Nolan.

ANTHEM*Song of Peace*

Chopin, arr. Jay Althouse

SCRIPTURE**Luke 5:1-11**

The Inclusive Bible

One day, Jesus was standing by Lake Gennesaret, and the crowd pressed in on him to hear the word of God. He saw two boats moored by the side of the lake; the fishers had disembarked and were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a short distance from the shore; then, remaining seated, he continued to teach the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Pull out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Rabbi, we’ve been working hard all night long and have caught nothing; but if you say so, I’ll lower the nets.” Upon doing so, they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were at the breaking point. They signaled to their mates in the other boat to come and help them, and together they filled the two boats until they both nearly sank. After Simon saw what happened, he was filled with awe and fell down before Jesus, saying, “Leave me, Rabbi, for I’m a sinner.” For Simon and his shipmates were astonished at the size of the catch they had made, as were James and John, Zebedee’s sons, who were Simon’s partners. Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you’ll fish among humankind.” And when they brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

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

SERMON

“Into the Deep”

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

HYMN**Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*** Chalice Hymnal, No. 342

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore,
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions, my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor.

(Refrain)

You need my hands, full of caring through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

(Refrain)

You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

(Refrain)

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: *Receive our prayers.*

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison) an interpretation from New Zealand
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and 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)

In this moment draw me to yourself, Lord, and make me aware not so much of what I've given as of all I have received and so have yet to share. Send me forth in power and gladness and with great courage to live out in the world what I pray and profess, that in sharing, I may do justice, make peace, grow in love, enjoy myself and other people, and your world now, and you forever. Amen. —Ted Loder

*HYMN

Ours the Journey (verses 1, 2 & 4)

Chalice Hymnal, No. 458

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering their sep'rate ways?

Refrain

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and evermore.*

Through the flood of starving peoples, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
(refrain)

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.
(refrain)

*BENEDICTION

As you go into the coming days, remember:

You do not go alone;

God's faithful love goes with you.

No matter what you are facing,
the love of God goes with you.

So go with courage in your heart,

go with joy in your song,

go with hope in your bones,

go with lightness in your step,

go with peace in your mind,

And together we will go—

with the sure knowledge that God's presence leads us,

and God's mercy accompanies us all along our way. Amen

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Masithi (Sing Amen)

Chalice Hymnal, No. 30

Amen, siyakudumisa. Amen, siyakudumisa.
Amen, Bawo, amen, Bawo, amen, siyakudumisa.

Amen, we praise your name, O God. Amen, we praise your name, O God.
Amen, Bawo, amen, Bawo, amen, we praise your name, O God.

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Susan Kirby ~ Digital Host: Joni Miller

Greeter: Betsy Christenson ~ Welcome Table: Cathy Crouch

Special thanks to Marc Donnelly for being our guest pianist and choir director this morning.

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.



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

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301-424-6733 ~ www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org

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

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light