



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
2nd Sunday after Pentecost
June 7, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Draw the Circle Wide

Light

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. (Refrain)

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. (Refrain)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, created in divine love and called by many names.

We come to celebrate the beauty, dignity, and worth of every person.

Come, teachers, mentors, students, and lifelong learners.

We come with grateful hearts for wisdom shared and knowledge gained.

Come, all who have journeyed toward authenticity and belonging.

We come to honor courage, diversity, and the gift of being ourselves.

Come, all who seek justice, compassion, and welcome for every child of God.

We come to build a community where all are loved and all can flourish.

Come, let us rejoice in the many colors of creation and the many voices of God's people.

We come to celebrate the goodness of God revealed in our diversity.

Come, let us worship the One who creates, inspires, teaches, and loves us all.

With joy and thanksgiving, we worship God!

***HYMN**

God, You Give the Great Commission Chalice Hymnal, No. 459

(verses 1, 2 & 5)

God, you give the great commission: “Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:

Refrain:

With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

God, you call us to your service: “In my name, baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community: [Refrain]

God, you bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity: [Refrain]

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Holy One, thank you for the beauty and diversity of your creation. During Pride Month, we celebrate the dignity, gifts, and courage of LGBTQIA+ people and pray for a world where all are welcomed, valued, and loved. Today we also give thanks for teachers and students. Bless all who teach, learn, encourage, and grow. As another school year ends, may we carry forward wisdom, curiosity, compassion, and hope. Gather us now in your Spirit of love, that we may honor one another and rejoice in the gifts you have given each of us. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Ruah

Fulmer

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-9

NRSV

Now Yahweh said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as Yahweh had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then Yahweh appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Yahweh, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Yahweh and invoked the name of the Yahweh. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

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

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Because I Had a Teacher

Bob Davis

By Kobi Yamada, illustrated by Natalie Russell

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.

RECOGNITION OF TEACHERS

Litany of Appreciation

God calls us all to grow in knowledge and wisdom, to share what we have seen, heard and learned, and to inspire hope and faith into the world.

Thank you for sharing your wisdom and faith.

We give thanks to God for all of our Sunday School teachers, youth group leaders, nursery caregivers, and volunteers who follow God’s call to help others learn more about God, and live as people of faith.

Thank you for sharing your grace and love.

We give thanks for the many, diverse gifts you have shared, and we celebrate the ways you shape and mold us through the examples of your lives.

Thank you for sharing your unique gifts.

We give thanks for the many different ways we learn and the ways we are embraced to be ourselves and care for others in this place.

Thank you for sharing your patience and acceptance.

We celebrate the new things we learned about the life of Jesus, the love of God, and the life of our church.

Thank you for sharing your insights and questions.

We celebrate the friendships that have been formed and deepened through the year in our classes and gatherings.

Thank you for sharing your care and kindness.

We ask God's blessing on all of our teachers and all of us, that we may continue to be renewed in body, mind, and spirit,

And share the love of God wherever we go.

Presentation of Gifts

Prayer of Blessing

God in my head, God in my heart

God on my left, God on my right

God in my highs, God in my lows

God with me always, Wherever I go. Amen.

ANTHEM

Over the Rainbow

Arlen/Harburg

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:9-13

NRSV

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

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

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

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION ***This Little Light of Mine***

African-American

SERMON

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"

Rev. Guy S. Johnson

***HYMN**

When Love Is Found

Chalice Hymnal, No. 499

When love is found and hope comes home,
sing and be glad that two are one.
When love explodes and fills the sky,
praise God and share our Maker's joy.

When love is tried as loved ones change,
hold still to hope though all seems strange,
till ease returns and love grows wise
through listening ears and opened eyes.

Praise God for love, praise God for life,
in age or youth, in calm or strife.

Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed
through death and life in broken bread.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Please use the prayer card to write your prayer requests, and place the card in the offering plate. Online, please write your prayer requests in the chat. We will share your prayers during the Prayers of the Congregation.

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)

Living God, you are the foundation upon which we stand. As these gifts are gathered, we pray they become the spiritual mortar and stone that strengthens our community. May our resources build structures that offer care and protection, and endure in faith, love, and justice. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Invitation

Come all who give thanks for the gift of life.
Come all who long for a just and joyful world.
Come all who seek peace and pursue it;
And together we will work to transform pain into hope,
fear into love, sorrow into rejoicing.

***Here in this place, the communion table is open
to people of all races, creeds, gender identities, sexual orientations,
economic circumstances, ages: adults, teens, and children.***

This is Christ's table; all are invited to share the feast.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Let us continue in prayer...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF BLESSING

I invite you to raise your hands over the food you share
in an ancient sign of blessing as we pray:

***Loving God, pour out your Spirit upon us
and on these gifts we share that we may be one with Christ
in whom you came to be one with us. Amen.***

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

You are invited to come forward to receive the bread and take a cup of juice.

A gluten-free option is available at the table.

If you prefer to stay seated, please raise your hand,
notifying one of the ushers or communion servers.

Communion Servers: *Laurie Kawa and Carol Abrahams*

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (unison)

***God, Food of the World, thank you for this taste of Your tender bread
from Your creation's table; bread newly taken from Your heart's oven,
Food that comforts and nourishes us. Now send us as a human loaf
joined hand in hand working and sharing. Send us as a sacrament of your body.
A warm loaf broken and served to Your wounded, wondering people. Amen***

-from community soup kitchen workers in shanty towns of Lima Peru, adapted

LITURGY OF FAREWELL

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come into our lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with the Peck-McClain family.

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time comes when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

God's Blessing Sends Us Forth One In Faith Hymnal, No. 815

God's blessing sends us forth, Strengthened for our task on earth,
Refreshed in soul and renewed in mind.

May God with us remain, Through us the Spirit reign,
That Christ be known to human-kind.

God's news in spoken word Joyfully our hearts have heard;
O may the seed of God's love now grow.

May we in fruitful deeds Gladly serve other's needs,
That faith in action we may show.

We by one living bread As one body have been fed
So we are one as we share this food.

How gracious to behold All people of one fold
Who ever seek each other's hand.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Donna Perry ~ Digital Host: John Junod

Welcome Table: Mary Wallace

Cover photo created by Guy Johnson