



Rockville United Church  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ  
4th Sunday after Epiphany  
February 1, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship

## PRELUDE

### CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

#### GATHERING MUSIC

#### *Sending You Light*

Demore

I am sending you right, to heal you, to hold you.  
I am sending you light, to hold you in love. [repeat]

No matter where you go,  
No matter where you've been,  
You'll never walk alone,  
I feel you deep within. [Refrain]

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

by Rev. Mindi, re: Worship

Blessed are the poor in spirit, the downtrodden and despairing,

***They will rejoice in God's reign forever.***

Blessed are those who mourn, who are grieving

***They will be comforted in God's reign forever.***

Blessed are the ones who seek justice and righteousness

***They will find it in God's reign forever.***

Blessed are we when we love our neighbors and seek their needs

***We will live in God's reign forever.***

Blessed are we all when we seek to serve others in God's name.

***Let us worship together, serving one another***

***and serving our Mighty God.***

#### \*HYMN

#### *Restless Weaver*

Chalice Hymnal, No. 658

(verses 1, 3 and 4)

Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom;  
Dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home;  
Gathering up life's varied fibers – every texture, every hue:  
Grant us your creative vision, with us weave your world anew.

When our violent lust for power ends in lives abused and torn,  
From compassion's sturdy fabric fashion hope and trust reborn.

Where injustice rules as tyrant, give us courage, God, to dare  
Live our dreams of transformation. Make our lives incarnate prayer.

Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life – now and yet to be –  
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry:  
You have called us to be weavers. Let your love guide all we do.  
With your Reign of Peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.

### **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION** (unison)

by Thom M. Shuman, re: Worship

*Give us, O God, this day: humility so we can see you in the most vulnerable;  
a cup to catch the tears of all who weep; an arm for the long-suffering to cling to  
as they walk through life; honesty which looks at the other and sees your beloved  
(not an object); friendship which embraces those we are taught to fear;  
hospitality which welcomes those who are ridiculed as they shadow you;  
words of hope, of comfort, of grace whispered for all who are hurt. Amen.*

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **CHORAL RESPONSE**

**Seven-fold Amen**

Reid

### **SCRIPTURE**

**Psalm 15**

The Inclusive Bible

Who has the right to enter your tent, YHWH, or to live on your holy mountain?  
Those who conduct themselves with integrity and work for justice,  
who speak the truth from their heart and do not use their tongues for slander,  
who do not wrong their neighbors and cast no discredit on their friends,  
who look with contempt on the corrupt but honor those who revere YHWH,  
who always keep their promises even when it hurts, who don't demand interest  
on loans and cannot be bribed to exploit the innocent. If people do these things,  
nothing can ever shake them.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **WORD FOR CHILDREN**

**Boo and Baa in Windy Weather**

Pastor Jennifer

by Olof and Lena Sandstorm

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 pickup 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 helpers are Mariana Nolan & Beth Frentrup.

**ANTHEM*****The Beatitudes***

Levy

**SCRIPTURE****Matthew 5:1-12**

The Inclusive Bible

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them: “Blessed are those who are poor in spirit: the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Blessed are those who are mourning: they will be consoled. Blessed are those who are gentle: they will inherit the land. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice: they will have their fill. Blessed are those who show mercy to others: they will be shown mercy. Blessed are those whose hearts are clean: they will see God. Blessed are those who work for peace: they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of their struggle for justice: the kingdom of heaven is theirs. “You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION*****Open Thou My Eyes***

Rutter

**SERMON****“Blessed”**

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

**\*HYMN*****When the Poor Ones***

Chalice Hymnal, No. 662

When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,  
when the thirsty water give unto us all,  
when the wounded in their weakness strengthen others,  
then we know that God still goes that road with us,  
then we know that God goes that road with us.

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,  
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,  
when we love though hate at times seems all around us,  
then we know that God still goes that road with us,  
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

## 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)

*Bountiful God, we praise you for the many blessings we receive through your grace. Use these gifts to touch the lives of those in need, and extend your love and liberating power to bless our world. Strengthen us to be your hands and heart in this work. 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.

Servers: Suzanne Junod and Elizabeth Cooper-Martin

## PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

### PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (unison)

**God of Glory, today we meet you in splendor, in simplicity, in mystery. Today you come to us as balm that heals our hurts, as light that illuminates our minds, warms our hearts, and re-creates the world. Thank you for your presence with us in this wonder and in this world. Receive the commitment of our lives as a thank offering to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### \*HYMN

### *We Are Called*

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

#### Refrain:

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,  
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless,  
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other  
as sisters and brothers united in love!

## \*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,  
**We go with the sure knowledge that God's presence leads us,  
and God's mercy accompanies us all along our way. Amen**

## POSTLUDE

### Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Donna Perry

Digital Host: John Junod

Greeter: Betsy Christenson

Welcome Table: Frances Hockensmith

### 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**.

## RUC Staff

*Rev. Jennifer R. Knutsen, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Guy S. Johnson, Associate Pastor  
Jim Levy, Director of Music  
Dalia Marciano, Administrative Coordinator  
Lynne Brady, Communications Coordinator  
Caitlin Vrendenburg, Nursery Coordinator  
Juan Mendez, Sexton*



Please Scan Me To Give To RUC.

*The cover pic is by Desiray Green on [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)*



### **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