



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 24, 2022 ~ Hybrid Worship

PRELUDE

PRESENTATION OF OUR COMMON LIFE

GATHERING MUSIC

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**All: *Therefore, we will not fear; though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.***

One: Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.

**All: *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Let us worship God! Amen.***

*HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Chalice Hymnal, No. 100

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair;
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Discordant humankind,
in this your concord find,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all earth around
ring joyous with the sound,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Sing, suns and stars of space,
sing, all that see his face;
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's whole creation o'er,
both now and evermore:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER ~ Denise Hansen

INTRODUCTION OF JOINING MEMBER

STATEMENT OF FAITH - Let us begin by affirming our faith together as a congregation: We covenant with God and with each other to be a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the United Church of Christ. Grateful for our particular traditions within the larger body of Christ, we are working for a coming church that will be truly catholic, truly reformed, and truly evangelical. We are open to and affirming of all people of faith, regardless of race, gender, age, class, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation. We will order our common life according to the insights of the Gospel as we have received it through the witness of scripture and church tradition, and as we experience its unfolding truth in our time. We seek to be a reconciling and caring community working for the liberation of all persons and striving to foster among everyone patterns of individual and corporate responsibility. In our coming and going together, we will dedicate our efforts to increase the love of God and neighbor among adults, youth and children.

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FOR JOINING MEMBER

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FROM FELLOW MEMBER

ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP - Understanding the content of our covenant and hearing the expectations of fellow members, do you accept our invitation to membership?

If so, answer: "Yes, with the help of God and my fellow members."

WELCOME OF CONGREGATION: Do you, the members of Rockville United Church accept Denise Hansen as a fellow member?

If so, answer: "We do with joy!"

UNISON WORDS OF WELCOME - *We welcome you with thanksgiving as partners in the ministries of Rockville United Church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Christ. God grant that together we may live out the claims of our faith and continue to grow into the fullness and maturity of life known in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* Chalice Hymnal, No. 265

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:1-8

NRSV

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Humanity comes, will he find faith on earth?”

One: Listen to what the Spirit teaches us.

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

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Jennifer

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 11: 1-13

The Inclusive Bible

One day Jesus was praying, and when he had finished, one of the disciples asked, “Rabbi, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say, ‘Abba God, hallowed be your Name! May your reign come. Give us today tomorrow’s bread. Forgive us our sins, for we too forgive everyone who sins against us; and don’t let us be subjected to the Test.’”

Jesus said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, a neighbor, and you go to your neighbor at midnight and say, ‘Lend me three loaves of bread, because friends of mine on a journey have come to me, and I have nothing to set before them.’ “Then your neighbor says, ‘Leave me alone. The door is already locked and the children and I are in bed. I can’t get up to look after your needs.’ I tell you, though your neighbor will not get up to give you the bread out of friendship, your persistence will make your neighbor get up and give you as much as you need. “That’s why I tell you, keep asking and you’ll receive; keep looking and you’ll find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to

you. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted. What parents among you will give a snake to their child when the child asks for a fish, or a scorpion when the child asks for an egg? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will our heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"

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

All: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Rev. Scott Winnette

***HYMN**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Chalice Hymnal, No. 585

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.
Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to our Christ in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to our Christ in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
take it to our Christ in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to our Christ in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

MORNING PRAYERS

Refrain: **One:** Holy One in your Mercy.

All: *Receive our prayers.*

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES US (in unison)

*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 that sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever.
Amen.*

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERINGS

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 (in unison)

Dependable God, in whom we live and move and have our being, once again You have filled us with hope and blessed us with grace. And we are grateful. We now offer our very selves as a fragrant offering to You. Receive us, transform us, and use us for Your glory. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Chalice Hymnal, No. 434

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

[Refrain:]

Till we meet (Till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet;)
till we meet (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,)
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings, protecting, hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

***BENEDICTION**

One: May God bless us;
May God keep us in the Spirit's care
And lead our lives with love.

All: ***May God's warm welcome shine from our hearts
And Christ's own peace prevail
Through this and every day. Amen.***

CHORAL RESPONSE (next page)

Gently ♩ = ca. 66

Take, O take me as I am;— sum - mon out what I shall be;—

set your seal up - on my heart and live in— me.—

POSTLUDE

Denise Hansen
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Although Denise now lives in Charleston, South Carolina, she was aware of Rockville United Church while living in Seattle, Washington. Seeing our website with the rainbow and trans flags and Black Lives Matters signs lining entry to RUC intrigued her to discover more about the social justice causes served through RUC. She read about RUC's theological diversity and watched everyone of Scott's sermons on video. She saw our "No matter where you are on your life journey, you are welcome here." She was searching for answers and impressed by our openness to those likewise searching for answers. She began attending via Zoom and felt extremely welcomed. Over time she became involved in group Zoom activities. She saw the many ways in which RUC acts to engage in social justice causes and found the actions of RUC spoke louder than words.

Prior to Charleston, South Carolina, Denise lived in Pittsburgh, PA; Frederick, MD; Chevy Chase, DC; and Seattle, Washington. Her last home church was St. Gertrude's Catholic Church in Vandergrift, PA where she led the adult and kids' folk mass. As a new member of RUC, she expects to continue to be engaged and offer her services despite her geographical distance.

Denise is currently employed as a Behavioral Intervention Autism Specialist and Home School of Autistic Child by the State of South Carolina and provides home schooling and behavioral intervention skills to a 14-year-old autistic boy. She likes to cycle long distances, swim, hike, watch films, play the guitar, and read. As a volunteer at Second Chance Bikes, a non-profit which procures and refurbishes used bikes and gives them to underserved kids, she teaches the new bike owners to safely ride. Her special interests are LGBTQ+ groups and events.

She shares that she is happiest spending time with her dear family, friends, and Remy Martin (her funny Standard Poodle) and finding spiritual calmness in an ocean beach week, a long distance bike ride, or a peaceful day at home.

She wishes that everyone would be able to see that people, regardless of race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, creed, or class are all the same. We each want the same for ourselves, family, and friends. Our desires, feelings, and basic needs are no different. Her continued wish is that we would see and appreciate this sameness and not look down upon those who are different or who appear to have "less."

Phyllis Windle is Denise's sponsor.

