



NO-Hate:  
*Share the LOVE*

Rockville United Church  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ  
2nd Sunday after Epiphany  
January 18, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship



## PRELUDE

## CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### GATHERING MUSIC

*Keep Your Eyes On the Prize*

American Folk Tune

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

***In you is the wellspring of life. Fill us with life!***

Your justice is like the mighty mountains; your judgments like the great deep.

***In you is the wellspring of life. Fill us with life!***

Continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your justice to the upright of heart!

***In you is the wellspring of life. Fill us with life!***

### \*HYMN

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Chancel Hymnal, No. 631

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.

let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

    Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;

    sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

    facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

### PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

***God of justice and love, We remember the witness of Martin Luther King Jr., who called us to courage, compassion, and nonviolent love. Transform our hearts and our communities. Where injustice persists, move us to act. Where division remains, teach us to love. Help us walk humbly, love mercy, and do justice in Your name, until peace and righteousness embrace.***

### WORDS OF GRACE

Be assured that God's grace meets us at our point of need with encouragement.

Circumstances change, and God's creative work continues. Receive the gift of new life with the unexpected experiences it brings. The living God is with us and equips us for the journey. Amen.

### CHORAL RESPONSE

*Seven-Fold Amen*

Reid

**SCRIPTURE****Amos 5:21-24**

NRSV

I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.  
Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**WORD FOR CHILDREN****That Is My Dream!**

Pastor Jennifer

by Langston Hughes, Daniel Miyares (Illustrator)

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 helper is Cindy Livingston.

**ANTHEM*****Steal Away***

African-American

**SCRIPTURE*****Micah 6:6-8***

NRSV

‘With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“What Would Martin Do?”

Rev. Guy Johnson

## \*HYMN

**We Shall Overcome**  
(verses 1, 4, 5, 6)

Chalice Hymnal, No. 630

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
we shall overcome someday!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
we shall overcome someday!

We are not afraid (today)...  
The truth shall make us free...  
We shall live in peace...

## MORNING PRAYER

### PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,  
All: **Receive our prayers.**

### THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES

*Our Creator in Heaven, holy is your name. Your kindom come, your will be done, on earth and in heaven. Give us all we need for today. Please forgive our misdeeds and we forgive those who mistreat us. Lead us away from those things that lead us astray and deliver us from all that would not be good for us. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. 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)

*Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring a brighter day of justice and love in our community and in the world beyond. Magnify our gifts so that together we may be a powerful movement for healing and peace. Amen.*

## \*HYMN

### ***I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me***

Chalice Hymnal, No. 614

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Love, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Love, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Love, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Love, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Love, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Love, anytime!

## \*BENEDICTION

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

### **Thanks to our worship helpers today!**

Liturgist: Elizabeth Cooper-Martin

Digital Host: Lori Merrill

Greeter: Ed Peterson

*The flowers are given in honor of Pastor Guy Johnson with love from Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor, Rev. Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley and their families.*



Please Scan Me To Give To RUC.



## 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  
Juan Mendez, Sexton



## Rockville United Church

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ  
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(Office Hours: Wed, Fri—10am to 3pm or by appointment)

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light