



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
Day of Pentecost
May 24, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Spirit of the Living God

Chalice Hymnal, No. 259

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Spirit of Life, you hovered over the waters at the world's beginning,
and hover over us still. As creation welcomes this new day,
all creatures join our hymn of praise.

Spirit of God, be present with us now.

Divine Advocate, you stand alongside us;
you defend and council us in times of trouble,
you enable and empower us to stand firm against injustice.

Spirit of God, be present with us now.

Holy Fire, burning within our hearts,
in gentle embers, tiny flames, raging fire,
your divine spark burns within each one.

Spirit of God, be present with us now.

Breath of God, your voice summons us softly like a whisper;
your howling gale moves powerfully shifting clouds and making waves.
You blow where you will, encircling us in the refreshing wind of your love.

Spirit of God, be present with us now.

adapted prayer by Liz Delafield in Summer Liturgical Resources
by Ruth Burgess

*HYMN

Spirit

Chalice Hymnal, No. 249

(verses 1, 3 & 4)

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep,
and over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers and rise to your wings.”

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still,
and down in the city you called once again
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
With bold new decisions your people arise.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of every tongue, we are grateful that in the presence of the Spirit, we are not asked to forget ourselves but to remember. To remember where we came from, to recall the sound of our own cultures and languages. Help us to heal from those spaces that have demanded assimilation from us under the guise of unity. To belong, we are told we must exalt commonality over particularity. Teach us the kind of belonging that is not threatened by those things that make us different but comes alive at the site of inclusion. Protect us from communities who only welcome our cultures as a theatrical symbol of their own benevolence. Lead us into spaces where our presence is longed for not as a mark of achievement but out of the deep recognition that hope cannot survive on one tongue alone. Amen.

from [Black Liturgies](#) by Cole Arthur Riley

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-17

The Inclusive Bible

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in the same place. And there came suddenly from heaven a sound like the sweeping of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Then there appeared among them divided tongues, as of fire, and one rested on each of them. And all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in other tongues just as the Spirit gave them to speak.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem devout Jews from every nation under heaven. Now at this sound the crowd gathered and was confused because each heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astounded, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how do we hear, each in our own native language? All were amazed and questioning to one another saying, “What does

this mean?” But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” But Peter standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Judeans and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you all, and attend to my speech. For these persons are not drunk as you suppose; it is only the third hour nine o’clock’ in the morning. No this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and our daughters and your sons shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your elders shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both women and men,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.”*

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Jennifer

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.

ANTHEM

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. by William L. Dawson

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-23

translation by Wil Gafney

When it was evening on that day, the first of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples were closed for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you all.” And having said this, Jesus showed them his hands and his side; then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Messiah. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you all, just as the God of Peace has sent me, so I send you all.” When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit; if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *As the Moon*

Christopher Grundy

SERMON

“The Power in Every Voice”

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

***HYMN**

Wind Upon the Waters
(verses 1, 4 & 5)

Chalice Hymnal, No. 247

Wind upon the waters, voice upon the deep;
rouse your sons and daughters, wake us from our sleep,
breathing life into all flesh, breathing love into all hearts,
living wind upon the waters of my soul.

Blazing light of wonder, flame that pierces night,
burst the dark asunder, fill our souls with light.
Lord of glory, fill the skies, make an end to hatred’s cries,
be the blazing sun of justice in our lives.

Wind upon the waters, rains upon the sand,
grace your sons and daughters, newborn by your hand.
Come, O Spirit and renew all the life that comes from you,
send your winds upon the waters of my soul.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison)

Parker J. Palmer, adapted

*Breath of Life,
In whom we live and move
And have our being,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done
In our lives and in our world.
Let heaven and earth become one.
Grant us the bread and insight we need for today.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.*

*Lead us to holy innocence,
Beyond the grip of all that is evil.
Come swift, Loving Presence,
For yours is the power and the glory and the kin-dom 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)

Spirit of wind and fire, God of great possibilities, breathe your new life into the world through these gifts we share. Make us instruments of your peace through our spiritual gifts and through the outreach of our offerings as we shape the world toward justice.

***HYMN**

On Pentecost They Gathered

Chalice Hymnal, No. 237

(verses 1, 3 & 4)

On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ's disciples, to worship sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire aglowing Inspired each person there.

God pours the Holy Spirit On all who would believe,
on women, men and children who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.

O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago.
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
so people of all nations glad songs of joy shall raise.

***BENEDICTION**

Spirit of God, take our mouths and speak through them;
Take our hands and work through them,
Take our minds and think through them,
And take our hearts and set them on fire.

William Sloane Coffin

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Elizabeth Cooper-Martin

Digital Host: Beth Marshwood

Welcome Table: Tida Strey

Special thanks to Marc Donnelly for sharing his musical talents with us this morning.

Cover photo by Alan Kant on unsplash.com.

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

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.



Rockville United Church

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
355 Linthicum Street, Rockville, Maryland 20851
301-424-6733 ~ www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org
(Office Hours: Wed, Fri—10am to 3pm or by appointment)

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light