



Rockville United Church  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ  
4th Sunday after Pentecost  
June 21, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

### CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

#### GATHERING MUSIC

#### *Gather Us In*

Haugen

Here in this place new light is streaming  
Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in; our spirits inflame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

When we feel abandoned and alone, unable to find a way out of the wilderness that surrounds, we cry out to God...

***And God listens to us.***

When we feel discouraged and defeated, unsure we will ever really be able to make ends meet and worried that no matter how hard we work, it will never be enough, we cry out to God...

***And God listens to us.***

When we feel lost and forgotten, unable to find the words for the grief, isolation, or despair that we feel, our hearts cry out to God...

***And God pays attention to us.***

As we gather in this place and time, remember:

You are not alone. We are in the presence of one another; we are in the presence of God, and God listens to the cries of our hearts.

***May we also listen to one another as God guides us toward the cool, refreshing waters we need to continue on our journey as the family of God.***

Dr. Lisa Hancock

#### \*HYMN

#### *Wind Upon The Waters*

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.

**PRAYER** (unison)

***Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from you. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with you. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations, through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.***

Beth Merrill Neel

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

***Seven-fold Amen***

Reid

**SCRIPTURE**

**Psalm 86:1-13**

translation by Wil Gafney

Open your ears, God, and answer me, for I am weak and helpless. Save me from death, for I am loyal to you; protect your faithful one, for you are my God and I trust in you. Have mercy on me, Holy One, for I pray to you all day long. Make your faithful one glad, for I lift my soul to you, Most High. You are good and forgiving, Merciful God, full of constant love for all who call on you. Listen to my prayer, Holy One, hear my cries for help. I call to you in times of trouble because you answer my prayer. There is none like you among the gods, Most High, and there are no works like yours. All the nations that you made shall come, and they shall bow down before you, Sovereign One, and will pay honor to your name. For you are great and work wonders; you are God, you alone. Teach me Holy One, your way that I may walk in your truth; let my heart be undivided to revere your name. I give thanks to you, Sovereign One my God, with my whole heart, and I shall glorify your name forever.

**One:** Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

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

**WORD FOR CHILDREN**

The Rabbit Listened  
by Cori Doerrfeld

Jim Levy

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.

**PORTRAIT OF PRIDE**

Karen Holmes

**ANTHEM**

*Wonder*  
Stephanie Dering, soloist

Merchant

**SCRIPTURE****Genesis 21:2**

translation by Wil Gafney

Sarah conceived and gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. The child grew, and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day of Isaac's weaning. Then Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian woman, whom she had given birth to for Abraham, playing. So she said to Abraham, “Drive out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit with my son, with Isaac.” The situation was evil in Abraham’s eyes on account of his son. And God said to Abraham, “See it not as evil in your eyes on account of the boy and on account of your slave woman. In all that Sarah says to you, obey her voice, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. Yet even the son of the slave woman I will make a nation also, because he is your offspring.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar. He placed it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. Then she walked away and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-Sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she thrust the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat herself down before him some way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Let me not see the death of the child.” So, she sat before him and she lifted up her voice and she wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the messenger of God called to Hagar from the heavens, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Rise, lift the boy and hold him with your hand, for a great nation of him I will make.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and let the boy drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he settled in the wilderness, and became an

archer. He settled in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother acquired a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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**                                      “Our Still Listening God”                      Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

**\*HYMN**                                      *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*                      Chalice Hymnal, No. 628

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm,  
through the night, lead me on to the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone, hear my cry,  
hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand,  
guide my feet, hold my hand:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

## **MORNING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**Refrain:**                      One: Holy One, in your mercy,

**All: *Receive our prayers.***

### **THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison)**

*Our 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 who sin against us.*

***And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
for thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.***

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory**

***Blackbird***

Lennon/McCartney

**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)**

***Eternal God, You create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may continue to give ourselves in love and service to one another and to you. Amen.***

## **LITURGY OF APPRECIATION AND FAREWELL for Lynne Brady**

### **Opening Words**

Our church community 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 to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, growing toward new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share a farewell with our Communications Coordinator, Lynne Brady.

### **Presentation**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

***Loving God, we give thanks for the generous, kind and steady presence Lynne has provided as our Communications Coordinator over many years. We give thanks for the ways that she has worked together with our staff and congregation to support the ministry of this church and its larger mission in the world. Guide us as we hold the memories of our shared time together, and go with us as we move in new directions. Help all of us to trust the future which rests in your care. Bless our journeys and reassure us that your abiding love goes with us always. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.***

**\*HYMN**

***Guide My Feet***

Guide my feet while I run this race (x3)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand ...

Stand by me ...

I'm Your child ...

Search my heart ...

Guide my feet ...

**\*BENEDICTION**

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

***Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.***

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

***Let us dream together, pray together, work together.***

To build one world of peace and justice for all.

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

**Thanks to our worship helpers today!**

Liturgist: Ryan Zeigler

Digital Host: John Junod

Welcome Table: Elizabeth Cooper-Martin

Greeter: Karl Knutsen

Cover image by Frank Albrecht on [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

## **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**.



Please Scan Me To Give To RUC.

### **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*



### **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