



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025 ~ Hybrid Worship

cover image: by Christian Robinson in the book Something, Someday.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Praise Ye the Lord

South African

*CALL TO WORSHIP

What do we bring to worship?

We bring our small seeds.

What do we bring to worship?

We bring our big dreams.

What do we bring to worship?

We bring our faith in God's transformation of small seeds into big dreams.

*HYMN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Pres. Hymnal, No. 462

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shade of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee;
joyless is the day's return, till Thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Gracious and loving Creator, you want only wholeness and peace for us and for this world, yet we're awash in brokenness and conflict. May we return to you and make your way our way. Wise and steadfast Teacher, you want only justice and abundance for us and for our world, yet we build systems and live daily in ways that leave people out. May we return to you and make your way our way. Holy and faithful Spirit, you want only Wisdom and Truth for us, yet we distract ourselves and foul the planet with what we know is trash. May we return to you with hope in our hearts and make your way our way. Amen.

—Carolyn Hart, Arlington, VA
UCC People's Prayers for Peace

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Seven-fold Amen

Reid

SCRIPTURES

Malachi 4:1-2a

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Savior Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Something, Someday

Pastor Jennifer

By Amanda Gorman, Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Children (ages 3 years old through 5th grade) are invited to attend a Sunday School faith formation class. Following the Word for Children, children will dismiss with their teachers to the classrooms on the lower level, through the front side door of the sanctuary. Parents/guardians, please pick up children in their classroom following the worship service. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany their child(ren) if they choose. 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

Almighty God, Who Hast Me Brought

Ford

SCRIPTURE**Luke 21:5-19**

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**Kyrie**

11th Century

SERMON

“The Day is Coming”

Rev. Denise Giacomozzi

HYMN**I Sing the Mighty Power of God***

Pres. Hymnal, No. 288

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eyes,
If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the skies!

There’s not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (in 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

Stewardship Story

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)

Creator God, we see how your gifts transform the hearts, minds, and souls of this world. May your wisdom continue to strengthen our spirits. Through our gifts of treasures, talents, and time, help us to serve your children. Through our endurance and compassion, may we build your kin-dom here on earth. We ask your blessing on our gifts of today. And we ask your blessing on each of us as we dedicate our estimates of giving for the year ahead. May our gifts show forth our hope and our faith in the power of your love and grace to grow and sustain the ministries of this church, to be a beacon of hope to the most vulnerable, and to be a blessing that reaches throughout the world. Amen.

***HYMN**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Pres. Hymnal, No. 538

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.

Let us each, Thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for Thy gospel's joyful sound:
may the fruits of Thy salvation in our hearts and lives abound!

Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

So that when Thy love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,

Let no fear of death appall us glad the summons to obey.

May we ever, may we ever reign with Thee in endless day.

***BENEDICTION**

We each have gifts from God. May we be bold to trust that what we have is enough and more than enough. Let us go now into the world, to plant the seeds of faith, hope and love, trusting the grace of God's goodness for their growth. Go gladly into the world, be filled with the love of God. Laugh with the song of the Spirit. Befriend the Christ in each new day. Go in peace, hope and love.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Scott Vossler

Digital Host: Lori Merrill

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