



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 15, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Njalo

South African

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, climb the mountain with Christ. Leave behind the noise of fear and the weight of despair.

We come seeking God's light, ready to be changed.

On the mountain, Jesus shines with glory—not power that dominates, but love that transforms.

We come to be transformed, to reflect that love in the world.

The Holy One says, “This is my Beloved—listen to him.” Listen to the voice that lifts the lowly and frees the oppressed.

We will listen. We will follow the way of justice and mercy.

Christ's light exposes every lie of inequality, every system that diminishes God's children.

In that light, we stand together—equal, beloved, and called to act.

Do not be afraid. Rise. The mountain is not the end of the journey.

We rise to walk with Jesus, down into the world's need and hope.

Come, then—shine with courage, shine with compassion, shine with justice.

We come to worship God and to become light for the world.

*HYMN

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Chancel Hymnal, No. 709

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God whose Word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like our God, the Giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing forth that God is near!
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, whose compassion illuminates the world. Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Ruah

Fulmer

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them. Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Kente Colors

Beth Frentrup

by Debbie Chocolate, illustrations by John Ward

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.

ANTHEM

I Will Sing Praises

Tate

SCRIPTURE**Matthew 17:1-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN*How Good, Lord, To Be Here!** Worship and Rejoice, No. 89
(verses 1, 2 & 5)

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night; Your
2 How good, Lord, to be here! Your beau - ty to be - hold Where
3 Ful - fill - er of the past And hope of things to be, We
4 Be - fore we taste of death, We see your king - dom come; We

face and gar - ments, like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, Your mes - sen - gers of old.
hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.
long to hold the vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.

5. How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;
But since you bid us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

SERMON

“A Change”

Rev. Guy Johnson

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison)

an interpretation from New Zealand

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and 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

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Chalice Hymnal, No. 66

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

***BENEDICTION**

You have seen Christ's light on the mountain.

We have glimpsed God's glory.

Listen to the Beloved. Rise. Do not be afraid.

We will follow with courage.

Shine with love. Act for justice. Walk in mercy.

We will carry Christ's light into the world.

Go now, transformed.

Thanks be to God. Amen

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Donna Perry

Digital Host: Carlotta Watkins

Greeter: Arthur Sloan

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.

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

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(Office Hours: Wed, Fri—10am to 3pm or by appointment)

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light