



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
5th Sunday after Pentecost
June 28, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Draw the Circle Wide

Light

Refrain

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. (Refrain)

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. (Refrain)

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. (Refrain)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

To know the warmth of love,
To have the assurance that someone cares,
To be confident of our worth,
To be bold to love in return,
To be washed over with grace,
To be accepted as we are:
This is to know a bit of God.
Then let us worship our God.

by Beth Merrill Neil

**Your love, O God, is broad like a beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.
You leave us free to seek you or reject you,
you give us room to answer “yes” or “no.”**

**We long for freedom where our truest being
is given hope and courage to unfold.
We seek in freedom space and scope for dreaming,
and look for ground where trees and plants can grow.**

**But there are walls that keep us all divided;
we fence each other in with hate and war.
Fear is the bricks and mortar of our prison,
our pride of self, the prison coat we wear.**

**O judge us, God, and in your judgment free us,
and set our feet in freedom’s open space;
take us as far as your compassion wanders
among the children of the human race.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Creator of all things, form us anew in the likeness of Christ. Open up to us possibilities we cannot imagine, and free us from self-imposed limitations. Help us explore the depths of faith and the heights of possibility, knowing wherever we go, you are with us. We come together as a community of faith because you first came to us. We seek to be in touch with your love for all creation, your compassion for all people, that we might become a living expression of your extravagant welcome. Lift our hearts with the wings of song, heal our souls with the balms of prayer, challenge our minds with the words of scripture, and give us courage to rededicate ourselves to your ways of love and justice. Send your Spirit to make us a new creation. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Ruah

Fulmer

SCRIPTURE

Psalms for Praying, Nan C. Merrill

I will sing of your steadfast Love forever, my Beloved;
with forthright voice I will proclaim your goodness to all generations.
For your abiding Love rules the universe,
your faithfulness extends throughout the firmament.
Your covenant from the beginning of time
encompasses all who choose to walk the path of Love;
And to all generations that honor your Way and your Truth,
will Love make itself known.
Blessed are those who know your Love,
who walk in the Light of your countenance!
Blessed are those who call upon your Name
and extol truth and justice!
For You are the glory of their strength;
you give wise counsel.
Our very lives belong to you,
O Loving Companion Presence.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN When Aiden Became A Brother

Pastor Jennifer

Kyle Lukoff, Author

Kaylani Juanita, Illustrator

Nursery care for infants through age 3 is available in the nursery on the lower level.
Our nursery caregiver is Caitlin Vrendenburg. Our nursery helper is Marianna Nolan.

PORTRAIT OF PRIDE

Bob Davis

ANTHEM

I Am What I Am

Guy Johnson

SCRIPTURE**Matthew 10:40-42**

NRSV

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**Prayer for Peace**

Haas

SERMON

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

HYMN*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Chalice Hymnal #517

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast,
let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
take away our love of sinning; alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

MORNING PRAYER**PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: *Receive our prayers.*

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES

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

***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)

Gaelic traditional

**Each thing we have received, from you it came, O God.
Each thing for which we hope, from your love it will be given.
Kindle in our hearts within a flame of love to our neighbors,
to our foes, to our friends, to our loved ones all,
from the lowliest thing that lives, to the name that is highest of all. Amen.**

***HYMN**

There's a Spirit in the Air

Chalice Hymnal #257

There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:

“Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

Lose your shyness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:

God in Christ has come to stay.

Live tomorrow's life today.

Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.

May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.

***BENEDICTION**

Go gladly into the world, be filled with the love of God.
Befriend the Christ in each new day.
Laugh with the song of the Spirit.
Extend holy welcome to all you meet.
And may the grace and peace of God go with you,
to dwell within you, and live through you
today and every day. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Paul Clark

Digital Host: Dan Hockensmith

Cover image by Frank Albrecht on 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

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

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

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light