



Rockville United Church

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Gather Us In

Haugen

Here in this place new light is streaming
Shadows of doubt are 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 are in flame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

If God is for us, who can stand against us?

We come with confidence, trusting in God's steadfast love.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Neither hardship nor sorrow, neither fear nor doubt can separate us from God's love.

In every circumstance, God walks beside us with grace and strength.

We are more than conquerors through the One who loves us.

Come, let us worship the God whose love never fails.

**We will praise God with joyful hearts, for nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ
Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN**

Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

Chalice Hymnal No. 354

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be
added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you
seek and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be
opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

PRAYER (UNISON)

Gracious and loving God, we gather today grateful for the promise that nothing can separate us from your love. When we are fearful, remind us of your presence. When we are weary, renew our strength. When we face uncertainty, fill us with hope and courage. Open our hearts to your Word, our voices to your praise, and our lives to your service. May the assurance of your steadfast love inspire us to love others with compassion, seek justice with courage, and walk faithfully in your ways. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Seven-Fold Amen

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 29:15-28

Inclusive Bible

When Jacob had been with them for a month, Laban said, “Why do you work for me without wages just because we are related? Tell me your worth, and I’ll hire you.” Now Laban had two daughters: the older one was Leah, and the younger one was Rachel. Leah was near-sighted; but Rachel was lovely and graceful, and Jacob was in love with her. He said, “I will work for seven years for the hand of your younger daughter, Rachel.” Laban answered, “I would rather that she marry you than give her hand to another. I accept this offer.” So Jacob worked for seven years for the right to marry Rachel, but to him it felt as if it were a few days – that was how much he loved Rachel. When seven years were up, Jacob said to Laban, “I have worked for you for seven years. Let me now marry Rachel.” So Laban brought together all the local people for a wedding feast, and there was a great deal of drinking. That night, however, he brought his daughter Leah to Jacob, and Jacob slept with her. Laban also gave Leah his maid Zilpah, to attend her that night. In the morning Jacob woke up – and it was Leah beside him! Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Didn’t I work for you for seven years for Rachel’s hand? Why have you deceived me?” Laban answered, “It is not our custom here to let the younger child marry first. Finish this wedding week with the older, and I will let you marry the younger for another seven years’ work.” Jacob agreed to finish the wedding week with Leah. When the week was finished, Laban allowed Rachel and Jacob to marry.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Should I Share My Ice Cream?
Mo Willems, Author/Illustrator

Pastor Guy Johnson

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 Marian Coger.

ANTHEM

Musical Meditation

Monica Boruch

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:31-39

Inclusive Bible

What should be our response? Simply this: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Since God did not spare the One Begotten, but gave Christ up for the sake of us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? Since God is the One who justifies, who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died – or rather, was raised – and sits at the right hand of God, and who now intercedes for us! What will separate us from the love of Christ? Trouble? Calamity? Persecution? Hunger? Nakedness? Danger? Violence? As scripture says, “For your sake, we’re being killed all day long; we’re looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.” Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of God who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither heights nor depths – nor anything else in all creation – will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

This Little Light Of Mine

African-American

SERMON

“No Thing”

Pastor Guy Johnson

***HYMN**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Chalice Hymnal No. 73

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.

If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined
in the presence of our God.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: *Receive our prayers.*

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

New Zealand Prayer Book

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 echo 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 for ever.

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)

Holy and loving God, receive these gifts and bless them for your work of justice, compassion, and hope. May they help build a world where all are welcomed, all are valued, and all can flourish. Transform not only these offerings, but also our hearts, that we may continue to share your love through our words and our actions. In the spirit of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

Thine is the Glory

Chalice Hymnal No. 218

Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes why thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; and us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. (Refrain)

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Paul Clark
Digital Host: Carlotta Watkins
Welcome Table: Beth Frentrup
Greeter: Tom Hourigan

Cover image by Pastor Guy Johnson on unsplash.com



SAVE THE DATE!

September 11-13, 2026 at Camp Pecometh

It is time to mark your calendars for Camp Pecometh – RUC’s intergeneration camp on the Chester River. Plan to join RUC for a weekend of fun, worship and time together. Join RUC for this over 25-year tradition.

Deposits are due August 16. Final payments are due **September 1**.

CABINS: Individual: \$125 each, family of three: \$375, additional family members: \$50 each

RETREAT CENTER: There are 24 hotel-style rooms in the retreat center. \$400 double occupancy, additional family members: \$50 each

PAY IT FORWARD: You may make an extra donation to the Camp Pecometh Scholarship Fund to enable all who want to attend Camp Pecometh by adding an extra little something to your payment, and a note it is to “Pay it Forward!” (There is a memo line in the online donation form to do this.)
Thank you!

For more information, or to discuss accommodations, please call Denise Rozell at (301) 787-6814.

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
Cha'Mia Holloman, Communications Coordinator
Caitlin Vrendenburg, Nursery Coordinator
Juan Mendez, Sexton*



Rockville United Church

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355 Linthicum Street, Rockville, Maryland 20851
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(Office Hours: Wed, Fri—10am to 3pm or by appointment)
Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light