



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 19, 2025 ~ Hybrid Worship

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PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Each child belongs to all of us and they will bring us a tomorrow in direct relation to the responsibility we have shown to them.” Maya Angelou

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Gather us in

Haugen

Here in this place, the 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 inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Drawn together in one Spirit, we gather to worship and proclaim what we know:

May our worship help us to recover our hope for our children's sake.

May our worship help us to recover our courage for our children's sake.

May our worship help us to recover our ability to work together for our children's sake.

May our worship help us to recover our values for our children's sake.

May our worship help us to recover our faith in God for our children's sake.

adapted from Marian Wright Edelman

Children's Defense Fund Founder and President Emerita

*HYMN

Come Children, Join to Sing

Chalice Hymnal, No. 90

Come children, join and sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ we bring: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all with heart and voice, give honor and rejoice;
Praise we with grateful choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can depend;
Whose love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore Christ's goodness we'll adore,
singing forever more: Alleluia! Amen!

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

God of all and not just some, we confess that when some have too much and others too little, we have not proclaimed your justice. When some have been surrounded by love and others excluded, we have not reached out with your radical inclusion. When some have been set on easy paths forward and others left to stumble over obstacles, we have not cleared the way as Jesus admonished. When some are nurtured and others abandoned, we have not embraced them with your love. When some are encouraged and others disheartened, we have not spoken your word of hope. Forgive us, we pray, for the ways we have not lived up to the scope of your vision, the depth of your love, the wideness of your embrace. God of all and not just some, help us to embody your love and speak your justice until every child may live into the fullness of the promise for which you created them. We pray these things in the name of Jesus who came for all and not just some. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

So Let the Words of My Mouth

Cliff

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Holy One, who made heaven and earth.
God will not let your foot be moved; God who keeps you will not slumber.
God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Holy One is your keeper; the Holy One is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.
God will keep you from all evil; God will keep your life.
God will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDRENFor Every Child

Ray Plante

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, text adapted by Caroline Castle

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*You Do Not Walk Alone*

Hagenberg

SCRIPTURE**Luke 18:1-8**

The Inclusive Bible

Jesus told the disciples a parable on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart: “Once there was a judge in a certain city who feared no one—not even God. A woman in that city who had been widowed kept coming to the judge and saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ For a time the judge refused, but finally the judge thought, ‘I care little for God or people, but this woman won’t leave me alone. I’d better give her the protection she seeks, or she’ll keep coming and wear me out!’” Jesus said, “Listen to what this corrupt judge is saying. Won’t God then do justice to the chosen who call out day and night? Will God delay long over them? I tell you, God will give them swift justice. “But when the Promised One comes, will faith be found anywhere on earth?”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *Open Thou Mine Eyes*

Rutter

SERMON

“Persistent, Praying, and Moving Our Feet” Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

HYMN**Guide My Feet***

Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 354

Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don’t want to run this race in vain!

I’m Your child while I run this race,
I’m Your child while I run this race,
I’m Your child while I run this race,
for I don’t want to run this race in vain!

Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

MORNING PRAYERS

Refrain: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayers.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayers.

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES

(Philip Newell interpretation)

Ground of all being, Mother of Life, Father of the universe,

Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.

May we know your presence,

may your longings be our longings

in heart and in action.

May there be food for the human family today

and for the whole earth community.

Forgive us the falseness of what we have done

as we forgive those who are untrue to us.

Do not forsake us in our time of conflict

but lead us into new beginnings.

For the light of life, the vitality of life, and the glory of life

are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

Stewardship Story

Stephanie Dering

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)

*The strength of a people
is not measured in profit or power,
but in the laughter of its children.*

*In neighborhoods where joy is rare,
we plant it like seeds.*

We water it with justice.

We wait for giggles to bloom. Amen. —Poem by Ash Love

*HYMN

For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table

(verses 1, 3, 5, 6)

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:

*and God will delight when we are creators of justice,
and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!*

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong, (Refrain)

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace, (Refrain)

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, (Refrain)

*BENEDICTION

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. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Carol Abrahams
Digital Host: Beth Marshwood
Welcome Table: Mary Wallace
Greeter: Jed Johnson

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