



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
June 14, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Draw the Circle Wide

Light

*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.

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

Make a joyful noise to our God, all the earth. Serve our God with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.

***Know that our God is God. It is God who made us, and we are God's;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.***

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and courts with praise.

Give thanks to God; bless God's name.

***For our God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever
and God's faithfulness to all generations***

***HYMN**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Chalice Hymnal, No. 18

All people that on earth do dwell, sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell, whose presence calls you to rejoice.

Know that there is one God indeed, who fashions us without our aid;
who claims us, gives us all we need, whose tender care will never fade.

Enter the sacred gates with praise, with joy approach the temple walls;
Extol and bless our God always as people whom the Spirit calls.

Proclaim again that God is good, whose mercy is forever sure;
whose truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

*God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself.
Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the
blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of Christ. Amen.*

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Seven-fold Amen

Reid

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18 :1-15

NRSV

Yahweh appeared to Abraham by the oak of Mamre while Abraham sat at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Looking up, Abraham saw three travelers standing nearby. When he saw them, Abraham ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and bowed to the ground. He said, "Do not pass by our tent. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet and then rest yourselves beneath this tree. If I have found favor in your eyes, as you have come to your faithful one, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves. Afterward, you may go on your way." "Very well," they replied. "Do as you have said." Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Take a bushel of fine flour and knead it into loaves of bread." Abraham then ran to the herd, selected a choice and tender calf, and sent a worker hurrying to prepare it. Then Abraham took cheese and milk and the calf that had been prepared and placed it before the travelers; and he waited on them under the tree while they ate. "Where is Sarah?" they asked. "Over in the tent," he replied. Now Sarah and Abraham were old, well on in age, and Sarah no longer had her periods. So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "Old as I am, and my husband even older, is pleasure to come my way again?" Then God said to Abraham, "Why does Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really deliver

a child at my age?" Is anything too wonderful for God to do? At the appointed time, at this time next year, I will return to you, and Sarah will have a child." Sarah was afraid and said, "I didn't laugh." God said, "Oh, but you did indeed laugh!"

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

WORD FOR CHILDREN

And Tango Makes Three

Pastor Jennifer

By Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

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. Our nursery helper is Marian Coger.

ANTHEM

Blue Dove (recording)

Creed

There's a blue dove who looks right in, she knows you're grieving what might have been.
You're howling at the moon, kneeling at the altar, whispering to the wind:
Please don't let me falter.

Cry and laugh loud, it's good to feel. Go on, be needy. It helps you heal.
You are howling at the moon...

Your life force is strong. You know how to pray. This gentle mystery: Love rules the day.

The night brings shelter, a starry nest, Blue Dove enfolds you to her sweet breast
You're howling at the moon...

Howling
Even this is fleeting
Whisper
Every moment deepening
Singing
Love is here to stay
There's a blue dove...

SCRIPTURE**Matthew 9:35-10:8**

NRSV

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask our God of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment."

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

"You Must Be Kidding"

Rev. Guy S. Johnson

HYMN**O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go***

Chalice Hymnal, No. 540

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison)

A New Zealand Prayer Book

The Prayer that Jesus Teaches
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 testing, 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

I Won't Give Up
Jim Skinner, soloist

Mraz/Natter

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)

UCC Book of Worship

Holy One, blessed are you who entrust to our care and use the richness of creation.
Through our tithes and offerings, we return to you a portion of that which you have
given us. May they be a means of serving you in the mission to which you have called us;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Chalice Hymnal, No. 248

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove, with all your quickening powers;
kindle a flame of sacred love in these cold hearts of ours.

Hosannas languish on our tongues, and our devotion dies.
Waken our souls to joyful songs; let pure devotion rise.

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove, with your enlivening ways;
come, shed abroad the Savior's love, and teach our hearts to praise.

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Dan Hockensmith
Digital Host: Carlotta Watkins
Welcome Table: Mary Wallace

Cover image: *Sending Out New Shepherds – Imagined* by Rev. Guy S. 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.

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