

May 5, 2024

Rockville Presbyterian Church

www.rockvillepres.org



Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson

Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai

Violinist: Shu-Ting Yao

Lay Leader: Joel Masselink

Ushers: Rachel Jung & Mike Herzfeld

Communion Servers: Anne Baur & Patti Sorini

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you.

If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with the Pastor or anyone wearing a name tag.

Bold Letters Indicate congregational response.

*-- Indicates that all who are able may stand.

GATHERING

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayers

William B. Bradbury

Welcome

*Call to Worship

God of rain and sunshine,

God of storms and rainbows.

God of all creation,

We worship and adore you.

We gaze in wonder at the beauty of your creation.

We marvel at stormy skies,

and we marvel as you transform them with the vibrant colours of a rainbow.

We praise and worship you, O God,

in the power of the Holy Spirit

and in the name of Jesus Christ, your son,

our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

Honor and Praise

#2018

Righteous and holy in all of your ways;

We come before you with honor and praise.

Here to adore you for all of our days,

We come before you with honor and praise.

Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are.

Shine down upon us, O Bright Morning Star.

Righteous and holy in all of your ways;

We come before you with honor and praise.

Filling the temple, the work of your grace;

We come before you with honor and praise.

Here to adore you for all of our days,

We come before you with honor and praise.

Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are.

Rise in our spirits, O Bright Morning Star.

Righteous and holy in all of your ways;

We come before you with honor and praise.

Announcements (see pages 7-9 in purple)

Prayer of Invocation

Good and gracious God, blanket us with your holy spirit as we worship and praise you on this glorious Easter morning. We have looked into the empty tomb and we know that you are God. We lift up songs, prayers, and scripture to you, oh Heavenly One. In this sacred place, we know that you are with us. In this place, we feel your presence. In this place, we know you more deeply. We are your Easter people. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

God of the rainbow, you placed a work of wonder into the skies above us. A marvelous curve of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet. It is a reminder of the covenant you made with us and with all creatures, promising life and hope. Yet we forget your sky art. We forget our connection with one another. We begin to think that we are the center of the universe. We wander away from the brilliance of your sky arc and we turn to the gray habits of deceit and pride. Forgive us and lead us back into your covenant colors. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

***Choral Response: Halle, Halle Hallelujah #591 (refrain only, 3 times)**

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

***Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Children's Sermon

Prayer of Illumination

Loving God, in this glorious Easter season, we ask that you quiet our minds, open our souls, and expand our hearts that we may hear your Word read, spoken, sung, and proclaimed. Let us now fully devote ourselves to worship. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

1st Reading

Psalm 100

On your feet now—applaud God!

Bring a gift of laughter,

sing yourselves into God's presence.

Know this: God is God.

God made us; we didn't make God.

We're God's people, God's well-tended sheep.

Enter with the password: "Thank you!"

Make yourselves at home, talking praise.

Thank God.

Worship God.

For God is sheer beauty,

all-generous in love,

loyal always and ever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

1Peter 4:8-11

⁸ Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰ Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹ Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Unity Hymn**

Together We Serve

#2175

**Together we serve,
united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy,
extending your love to the last and the least.**

**We seek to become
a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**We welcome the scarred,
the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home
to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

**Together, by grace,
we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve
in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.**

RESPONDING

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Church offerings can be made electronically
through our website: www.Rockvillepres.org *or*
by scanning our QR code with your phone.



Offering Anthem

Children of Heavenly Father

Richard A. Nichols

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication**

You called forth this church and entrusted it to us, Great God. We bring our offerings to further your reign among us and only you know how adequately we are responding in return for the abundance you have given to us. May what we dedicate here, and the causes that engage our devotion, represent the life you bring to this church.

***A Brief Statement of Faith:**

(PC-USA Book of Confessions)

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and in culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(the bread is gluten free and the juice is grape juice)

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our father 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

***Sending Hymn**

Shine, Jesus, Shine

#2173

(Refrain)

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

**Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Benediction

Postlude

I'd Rather Have Jesus

George Beverly Shea

PRAYER REQUESTS & BLESSINGS

New to the Prayer list:

- ❖ Barbara Grewe and family as they grieve the passing of her husband's cousin, Judith.

We continue to pray for:

- ❖ Pastor Karen Doty and family as they grieve the death of her husband Verlin.
- ❖ The Sorini family as they grieve the sudden passing of Marc's aunt, Diana, who died after a car accident; Laurie Smith as she welcomes a new grandson, Winston, born on Easter morning; Sue Anderson's son, Christian; Laurie Smith as she deals with shingles; Joan Romaine's sister, Debbie, who is undergoing treatment for cancer; Ann Kelly's dear friend, Kristy, as she faces multiple medical challenges; Mason Dencker; and Jeff Taylor, (Bob Taylor's son).

Our Homebound:

- ❖ Beth McDonald (Landfair) and Bill Landfair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



LOOKING AHEAD Sunday, May 19th is Pentecost Sunday! Wear something **RED** to church as we remember the fire of the Holy Spirit.



Rainbow Place, Sunday, May 5th. We will honor Rainbow Place staff and volunteers with a special worship service and reception. Executive Director Olu Adebayo will preach the sermon!



Game Day with Marc Sorini! Mr. Marc will lead the Sunday School kids in awesome games and activities.



Community Reach Annual Gala: On Saturday, **May 11th**, 6-10 pm, Community Reach will host their annual gala that supports Reach's programs. Are you interested in attending or volunteering? For more information, go to <https://www.cmrocks.org/events>



Calling all graduates and parents! Graduation season is almost upon us. A slideshow showcasing our graduates and those who are being promoted will be presented in June. I am asking the graduates of high school and college; those who are being promoted from preschool and kindergarten; 5th grade to middle school; and 8th grade to high school, to send pictures, jpg format. Please send information about the graduate/promoted to me to be included in the slideshow. The information should include: where the student was promoted/graduated, and where they will go after. If it is a college graduate, what plans they have in the near future. I will need this no later than **May 26th**. Please send the photos and information to Amy Macomber at amacomber2@verizon.net. My cell phone is 240-274-2070 if you have any questions. Thank you.



Pentecost Choir Practice - Sundays in May, 9:30am-10:00am, in the Sanctuary.

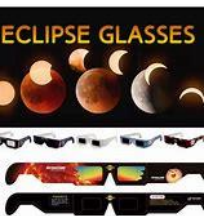
Anyone interested in singing with the community, please join Minister of Music, Huai-En Tsai, Sundays in May, as he teaches us a special Pentecost song to share during Pentecost worship on May 19th. All individuals are welcome and do not have to have any prior singing experience.



Taiwan Night Concert – May 25th, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center.

TCC presents the Taiwanese American Community SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY 2024 featuring some of the finest rising performing artists of the country. Don't miss this concert performance at the Montgomery College Robert E Parilla Performing Arts Center at 2pm on May 25th.



Recycle Your Eclipse Glasses

RPC is collecting eclipse glasses for recycling and distribution around the globe. This program, coordinated by Eclipse Glasses USA, is designed to ensure that as many people as possible, especially school children in countries with limited resources, can safely experience the wonder of a solar eclipse. **Please bring your eclipse glasses to church and put them in the collection box in the Calvin Room by May 19.**



RPC Info Session, June 9th, following worship service, for visitors, new members, and new elders. Learn more about the history of the Presbyterian church, reform theology, and church governance. Lunch included!

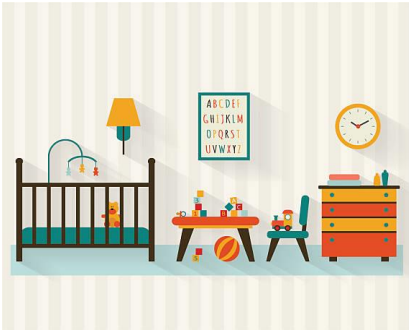
<u>THOSE SERVING THIS SUNDAY</u>	<u>THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY</u>
<u>May 5th</u>	<u>May, 12th</u>
<p>Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai Violinist: Shu-Ting Yao Lay Leader: Joel Masselink Ushers: Rachel Jung & Mike Herzfeld Communion Servers: Anne Baur & Patti Sorini Fellowship: Rev. Susan Graceson Counters: Amy & Jerry Macomber Sunday School Teachers: Games Day with Marc Sorini</p>	<p>Pastor: Rev. Susan Graceson Minister of Music: Huai-En Tsai Lay Leader: Kathy Ruxton Ushers: Pat Wolff & Sherry Smith Fellowship: Volunteers needed Counters: Elizabeth & Paul Boyer Sunday School Teachers: Mary Williams & Elke Herzfeld</p>



MORE LIGHT

PRESBYTERIANS

Rockville Presbyterian Church is a member of the More Light network of Presbyterian churches. We welcome everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, or marital status. We also welcome and encourage the full participation of persons without regard to sexual orientation.



Nursery Care: Professional childcare workers are available to care for your children during the worship service. They are CPR-trained and have undergone full criminal background checks. The nursery is colorfully decorated and stocked with age-appropriate toys, changing tables, cribs, and childcare supplies. Speak to one of the ushers if you need help placing your child in the care of our wonderful workers.



ROCKVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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