



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Come In This House

Pam Rogers

*CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 65)

Praise is due to our God, who waters the earth and provides the people with food.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow and the hills are filled with joy.

The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain.

They shout and sing together for joy.

Now let us also sing praise for the goodness of creation and all God's blessings for us.

Let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Chalice Hymnal No. 61

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

O God, in the creation story, you tell us that humans were given dominion over the earth and all living things. Unfortunately, we have not always used that power wisely. We have misused many species to the point of extinction; we have changed the contours of the earth to cause erosion and catastrophic floods; we have contributed to global warming and climate change leading to destructive fires, droughts and unbearable heat waves. As we now deal with the consequences of past human actions, let us commit ourselves to do whatever is necessary to return our world to equilibrium, to protect the life of all flora, fauna and humankind. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

I Am Sending You Light

Demore

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 104:10-18, 24, 33

The Inclusive Bible

You set springs gushing in ravines, running down between the mountains, supplying water for wild animals and attracting the thirsty wild donkeys; the birds of the air make their nests by these waters and sing among the branches. From your palace you water the highlands until the ground is sated by the fruit of your work; you make fresh grass grow for cattle and plants for us to cultivate to get food from the soil—wine to cheer our hearts, oil to make our faces shine, and bread to sustain our life. The trees of YHWH drink their fill—those cedars of Lebanon, where birds build their nests and, on the highest branches, the stork makes its home. For the wild goats there are the high mountains, and in the crags the rock badgers hide. YHWH, what variety you have created, arranging everything so wisely! The earth is filled with your creativity! I will sing to you all my life, I will make music for my God as long as I live.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Nancy Clark

Nursery care for infants through age 3 is available in the nursery on the lower level. Our nursery caregiver is Marian Coger. Older children are encouraged to remain in worship. The rug space in the sanctuary is available for quiet play, coloring and reading.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Triste

Antonio Carolos Jobim

SCRIPTURE

Mathew 6:25-34

The Inclusive Bible

That's why I tell you not to worry about your livelihood, what you are to eat or drink or use for clothing. Isn't life more than just food? Isn't the body more than just clothes? "Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet our God in heaven feeds them. Aren't you more important than they? Which of you by worrying can add a moment to your lifespan? And why be anxious about clothing? Learn a lesson from the way the wildflowers grow. They don't work; they don't spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in full splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in such splendor the grasses of the field, which bloom today and are thrown on the fire tomorrow, won't God do so much more for you—you who have so little faith?

“Stop worrying, then, over questions such as, ‘What are we to eat,’ or ‘what are we to drink,’ or ‘what are we to wear?’ Those without faith are always running after these things. God knows everything you need. Seek first God’s reign, and God’s justice, and all these things will be given to you besides. Enough of worrying about tomorrow! Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

If God Takes Care of Lilies and Birds....

Rev. Nancy Clark

***HYMN**

Creative God, You Spread the Earth

Chalice Hymnal No. 697

Creative God, you spread the earth with life in many forms:
the deer and elk and columbine, the bee in humming swarms.
Forgive us for each flow’r and bird now vanished by our hand.
Teach us to treat with loving care the creatures of the land.

The planet teemed with living things before all human birth,
and even fire and beasts of prey renewed the life of earth.
Forgive us, that, the last to come, we threaten sea and air.
Teach us to tend life’s fragile web with wise and tender care.

O playful God, you fill the field with lavender and blue.
You paint the bird with indigo, with red or tawny hue.
Forgive us that we grieve your heart, destroying what you do,
and teach us simpler, gentler ways to live on earth with you.

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 by 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)

O God, we thank you for the features of our earth and all the diverse creatures that inhabit it. We thank you for all the plant life that provides shelter, food, medicine and beauty. We thank you for humankind that you have created in your image. We now dedicate our time, talent and treasure to preserving life here on earth and spreading the love of Christ to all its human inhabitants. Amen.

*HYMN

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

Chalice Hymnal No. 70

God of the sparrow, God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake, God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow, God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry, God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor, God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages, God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

***BENEDICTION** (based on Romans 8:35-39)

As we leave this place, remember this:

Nothing in this world can ever separate us from the love of God:

not hardship, disaster, poverty or danger, neither death nor life,
our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow.

Nothing in all creation can ever separate us from God's love.

So, go from here with joy to love and serve our God. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Paul Clark

Digital Host: Dan HockenSmith

Welcome Table: Mary Wallace

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

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light