



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Ruah

Fullmer

Ruah, Ruah, Breath of God within us.

Ruah, Ruah, Spirit of our God. (repeat)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Awaken to the mystery of being here and enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.

We bring joy and peace in the temple of our senses.

Awaken to the presence of the Holy in this place.

We take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention.

Awaken to this day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder.

We bring ourselves as we are to praise God who is with us wherever we go.

For Presence, John O'Donohue, adapted

*HYMN

Come Holy Spirit Fill This Place

Chalice Hymnal No. 269

Come, Holy Spirit, fill this place, anoint these servants
with your grace. Inspire and guard them with your might
and be, Creator, their delight.

Come, Holy Spirit, Comforter, the Gift of God, Enlightener;
a living well from which to draw
the treasures of God's love and law.

Your sev'n-fold gifts we seek this hour, your wisdom, knowledge,
truth and power. May counsel, love and peace prevail.
Such gifts from you will never fail.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Righteous God, test us and stretch us, strengthen us in your truth and justice, fortify us with resolve and power so that we might be the people you have called us to be. Holy One, even beyond forgiveness, we seek transformation. Renew our minds, open our hearts, and release our hands to repair, reconcile, and restore in your name. Keep us from being the cause of suffering. Equip us to be agents of healing. Make us attentive to your presence. Attune us to your will. Lead us on the path you have paved before us so that the grace we receive will sow seeds of redemption and healing in the world. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Let The Words Of My Mouth

Cliff

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:1-12

Inclusive Bible

God, you've searched me, and you know me. You know if I am standing or sitting, you read my thoughts from far away. Whether I walk or lie down, you are watching; you are intimate with all of my ways. A word is not even on my tongue, God, before you know what it is: you hem me in, before and behind, shielding me with your hand. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, a height my mind cannot reach! Where could I run from your Spirit? Where could I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you're there; if I make my bed in Death, you're already there. I could fly away with wings made of dawn, or make my home on the far side of the sea, but even there your hand will guide me, your mighty hand holding me fast. If I say, "The darkness will hide me, and night will be my only light," even darkness won't be dark to you; the night will shine like the day—darkness and light are the same to you.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

All The Places to Love

Bob Davis

By: Patricia Maclachlan

Illustrated by: Mike Wimmer

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 Cindy Livingston. Older children are encouraged to remain in worship. The rug space in the sanctuary is available for quiet play, coloring and reading.

ANTHEM

Holy is Your Name

Scottish

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 28:10-19

Inclusive Bible

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he passed the night there. He took a rock and used it for a headrest and lay down to sleep there. During the night he had a dream: there was a ladder, standing on the ground with its top reaching to heaven; and messengers of God were going up and coming down the ladder. God was there, standing over him, saying, "I am the Holy One, the God of Sarah and Abraham, and the God of Rebecca and Isaac.

Your descendants will be like the specks of dust on the ground; you will spread to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south, and all the tribes of the earth will bless themselves by you and your descendants. Know that I am with you. I will keep you safe wherever you go, and bring you back to this land; I will not desert you before I have done all that I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke and said, “Truly, God is in this place, and I never knew it!” He was filled with trembling and said, “How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!” Jacob rose early the next morning, and took the stone he had used as a headrest and set it up as a monument, and anointed it with oil. Jacob named the place Bethel—“House of God”—though before that, the town was called Luz.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Open Thou Mine Eyes

Rutter

SERMON

Where God Meets Us

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

***HYMN**

Be Thou My Vision

Chalice Hymnal No. 595

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: *Receive our prayers.*

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 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 One, may these gifts reflect our trust in you and your provision. Magnify them for your purpose and grant us discernment to be caretakers of the resources entrusted to us.
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 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**

Go forth into the gift-laden world.

Beauty is before us.

Beauty is behind us.

Beauty is above us.

Beauty is below us.

Praise to the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Go in peace to show forth the love of God in all things.

Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Donna Perry

Digital Host: John Junod

Welcome Table: Elizabeth Cooper-Martin

Greeter: Frank Molony and Carroll Saussy



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
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

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

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

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light