



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

A Voice is Heard

Watts/O'Brien

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come with wandering and lonely hearts.

God draws us together in community.

We have come with confusion about sharing our gifts.

God offers us clarity and hope.

We have come for a good word.

Jesus reminds us of this calling: "Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be."

*HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

Chalice Hymnal No. 464

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy righteous goal,
lest we miss thy righteous goal.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we don't always know if our hearts are in the right place. Our motivations are sometimes self-serving and focused on immediate needs. Grant us grace and discernment as we seek to align our hearts with our resources. Renew our church as we strive to connect our ministry with your calling. Fill us with the assurance of your love and grace so that we might grow in gratitude and generosity of spirit. Nurture our compassion and connection to the whole of your creation, so we might experience the joy of building your beloved community in which all are valued and live together in peace and plenty. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Ruah

Fulmer

(Note: Ruah is Hebrew for "Spirit." The word appears in the opening verse of Genesis.)

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 104: 1-4, 33-35

Interpretation by Nan C. Merrill

Bless the radiant One, O my soul!
O Heart of my heart, You are so very great!
You are clothed with justice and mercy,
arrayed in Light as your fine attire.
You stretch over the heavens like a tent,
your Radiance covering the waters;
You shine through the clouds, and
ride on the wings of the wind;
The wind, like the Breath of Life,
carries your Voice,
Fire refines the dross of our souls.

May my meditations be pleasing to You,
for I rejoice and am glad in You.
May all who feel separated from You
open their hearts to new Life!
Praise the Creator of the Universe!
Bless the Heart of my heart,
O my soul! Amen.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Guy Johnson

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 Cindy Livingston.

ANTHEM

Naima

Coltrane/Perry

SCRIPTURE**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

The Inclusive Bible

Beware of practicing your piety before others to attract their attention; if you do this, you will have no reward from your Abba God in heaven.

When you do acts of charity, for example, don't have it trumpeted before you; that is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may be praised by others. The truth is, they've already received their reward in full. But when you do acts of charity, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; your good deeds must be done in secret, and your Abba God—who sees all that is done in secret—will repay you.

And when you pray, don't behave like the hypocrites; they love to pray standing up in the synagogues and on street corners for people to see them. The truth is, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to God who is in that secret place, and your Abba God—who sees all that is done in secret—will reward you.

And when you fast, don't look depressed, like the hypocrites. They deliberately neglect their appearance to let everyone know that they are fasting. The truth is, they have already received their reward. But when you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Don't let anyone know you're fasting except your Abba God, who sees all that is done in secret. And Abba God—who sees everything that is done in secret—will reward you.

Don't store up earthly treasures for yourselves, which moths and rust destroy and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust can destroy them and thieves cannot break in and steal them. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be as well.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION*Come to Us*

Helgen

SERMON**The Shaping of Hearts**

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

HYMNBe 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.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 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.
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

STEWARDSHIP STORY

Minha Do and James Ho

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)

Generous God, in response to your word that inspires and sustains us, challenges and renews us, we offer these gifts from the hearts of our congregation. May they build communities of generosity, justice and healing, aligning the gifts of our treasure and the generosity of our hearts in the work of ministry. Amen.

***HYMN**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Chalice Hymnal No. 606

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure too you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

***BENEDICTION**

O Lord, take our mouths and speak through them;
Take our hands and work through them,
Take our minds and think through them,
And take our hearts and set them on fire.

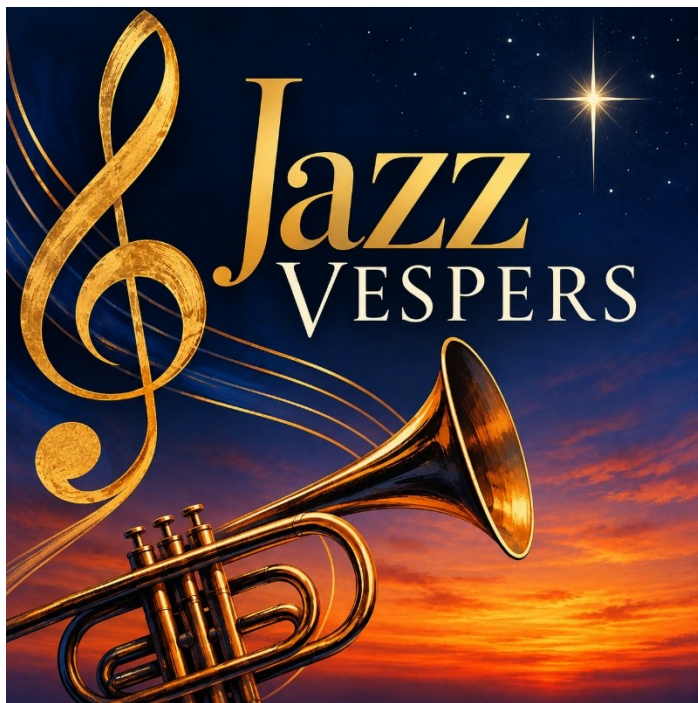
BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Stephanie Dering

Digital Host: Beth Marshwood



Sunday, October 18 • 5:00 PM
Rockville United Church Sanctuary

Join us for Jazz Vespers, a contemplative service where evening prayer and the spirit of jazz come together.

Through prayer, reflection, and jazz music, we will create sacred space to pause, breathe, listen, and encounter the Holy as the day draws to a close.

We are also delighted to welcome special musical guests who will join us for this unique evening of worship.

Come as you are. Bring a friend.
All are welcome.

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

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