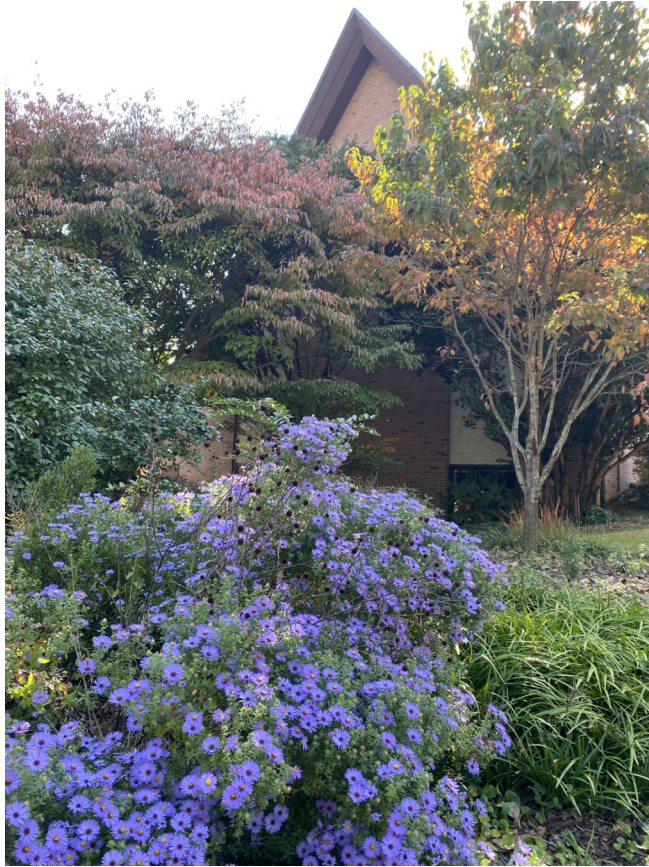




Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints
November 1, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

How Firm A Foundation

Trad

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come into this space to recall stories of faith across generations and claim this time and space as holy.

Let us be bold to tell our stories and confirm our faith in the eternal love of God.

We remember the saints who have come before us, teaching us how to live in the fullness of God's love.

Let us honor their legacy of courage and struggle.

We proclaim God's love, justice, and peace at the heart of all our actions.

Let us renew our courage and continue to engage in the struggle for justice and peace.

Inspired by the saints who have gone before, empowered by the Spirit that embraces us now,

Let us worship and sing praise to God!

*HYMN

For All The Saints

Chalice Hymnal No. 637

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
their strength and solace in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true light.
Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, company divine!
We live and struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF LAMENT AND COURAGE (unison)

Loving God, our world is hurting, and we hurt with it. We lament the wars and suffering in many places around the world, and the ripples of loss and grief spreading further still. We remember those who have died seeking safety, dignity, and a better life, those killed on the streets, in immigration custody, in detention in places far from home, or in their neighborhoods protesting injustice. Hold dear all the lives lost and broken, and comfort all who grieve. Help us to recognize and condemn the cruelty of systems that devalue human life. Give us the courage to stand in solidarity with the vulnerable, to resist injustice, and to break down the walls that divide us. Empower us to honor the dead not only with our words, but by working tirelessly for a world where every human being is recognized as sacred. Help us to comfort and support one another, and affirm our faith that nothing in life nor death can separate us from your love. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Danish

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

The Inclusive Bible

I will bless the Holy One always; praise will continually be on my lips!
My soul will boast about God— let the oppressed be glad.
Glorify God with me, and let us exalt God's name together.
I sought God, who answered me and freed me from all my fears.
Those who look to God are radiant, and their faces are never covered in shame.
The poor called out; God heard and saved them from all their troubles.
The angel of God encamps around those who revere God, and rescues them.
Taste and see how good God is; happiness comes to those who take refuge in God.
Holy people of God, revere God— for those who stand in awe of God lack nothing.

The young lion may grow weak and suffer,
but those who seek God will lack no good thing.
God ransoms the lives of the faithful,
and none who seek refuge in God will see punishment.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Jennifer Knutsen

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 pick up 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 Mariana Nolan.

ANTHEM

Gloria

Vivaldi

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:1-12

NRSUVE

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Open Thour Mine Eyes

Rutter

SERMON

The Part We Can See

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

***HYMN**

Blest Are They

Haas

Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.
(Refrain)

Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God!
(Refrain)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Stewardship Story

Beth Marshwood

OFFERTORY

With gratitude and generosity, we are invited pass on what has come into our hands, offering our gifts and ourselves to be transformed by the love and grace God.

*Please use the prayer card to write your prayer requests,
and place the card in the offering plate.
Online, please write your prayer requests in the chat.
We will share your prayers during the Prayers of the Congregation.*

***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.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

- One: Come all who give thanks for the gift of life. Come all who long for a just and joyful world. Come all who seek peace and pursue it; and together we will work to transform pain into hope, fear into love, sorrow into rejoicing.
- All: **Here in this place, the communion table is open to people of all races, creeds, gender identities, sexual orientations, economic circumstances, ages: adults, teens, and children.**
- One: This is Christ's table; all are invited to share the feast.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: Let us continue in prayer...

Refrain: One: Holy God within us and among us,

All: Let us remember and carry their presence in the world.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF BLESSING

One: As we raise our hands in an ancient sign of blessing over the food we share, let us pray:

All: Loving God, pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts we share, that we may be one with Christ in whom you came to be one with us. Amen.

One: Come and join the feast and share the blessings of God.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

You are invited to come forward to receive the bread and take a cup of juice.

A gluten-free option is available at the table.

*If you prefer to stay seated, please raise your hand,
notifying one of the ushers or communion servers.*

You're invited to light a candle in honor of a loved one.

Communion Servers:

Carol Abrahams

Lori Merrill

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (unison)

Gracious God, nourished in our bodies, restored in our minds, healed in our spirits, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table through the presence of Christ and your Spirit of life and love. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN**

For the Healing of the Nations

Chalice Hymnal No. 668

For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,
may we hallow life's brief span.

***BENEDICTION**

God we thank you for the people and places that bring us to life,
remind us of your love, lead us to hope, and call to action.

**We give thanks for those wise, courageous,
ordinary people whose lives shape our lives.**

Go now to share the love of God, the peace of Christ,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Lori Merrill

Digital Host: Bill Kirby

Welcome Table: Frances Hockensmith

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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301-424-6733 ~ www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org

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

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light