



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Dona Nobis Pacem

Trad

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Japan)

In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

What do we find at today's table?

God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

What is not at today's table?

The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

Let us give thanks to God who brings healing and salvation.

Thanks be to God!

Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

Praise be to God!

*HYMN

God Is Here

Chalice Hymnal No. 280

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

(South Africa)

**For our failure to feel the sufferings of others,
and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,
God forgive us.**

**For the self-righteousness which denies guilt,
and the self-interest which strangles compassion,
God forgive us.**

For those who live their lives in careless unconcern,
who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace,
we ask your mercy.
For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,
we ask your mercy.
For the times when we are too eager to be better than others,
when we are too rushed to care,
when we are too tired to bother,
when we don't really listen,
when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,
God forgive us.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Bangladesh)

Know that God loves you. From the very beginning
God's loving mercy has been poured out upon you.
God loves you like a parent embracing you.
God watches over you, guiding you each day.
On behalf of Jesus Christ, our Savior: you are forgiven; forgive others.
You are restored; restore others.
You are reconciled with God; be reconciled with others,
in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen

CHORAL RESPONSE

Ruah

Fulmer

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 19

The Inclusive Bible

The heavens herald your glory, O God, and the skies display your handiwork. Day after day they tell their story, and night after night they reveal the depth of their understanding. Without speech, without words, without even an audible voice, their cry echoes through all the world, and their message reaches the ends of the earth. For in the heavens the sun has pitched a tent. It comes forth with the grandeur of a wedding procession, with the eagerness of an athlete ready to race. It rises at one end of the sky and travels to the other end, and nothing escapes its warmth. Your law, Holy One, is perfect; it refreshes the soul. Your rule is to be trusted; it gives wisdom to the naive. Your purposes, O God, are right; they gladden the heart. Your command is clear; it gives light to the eyes. Holding you in awe, Holy one, is purifying; it endures. Your decrees are steadfast, and all of them just. They are more precious than gold, than the purest of gold, and sweeter than honey, than honey fresh from the comb.

In them your faithful people find instruction; there is great reward in keeping them. But who can detect one's own failings? Forgive the misdeeds I don't even know about! Keep your faithful one from presumption as well, so that my faults never control me. Then I will be blameless and innocent of a grave error. May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing in your sight, God, my rock and my redeemer.

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

Ave Verum Corpus

Mozart

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

The Inclusive Bible

Then God spoke all these words, and said, "I am the Holy One who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Do not worship any gods except me! Do not make for yourselves any carved images or likeness of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth and do not bow down to them or serve them! Do not utter the name of God to misuse it, for God will not acquit anyone who utters God's name to misuse it! Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy! Six days you shall labor and do all your work. Honor your mother and your father, so that you may have a long life in the land that God has given to you! No murdering! No stealing! No giving false testimony against your neighbor! No desiring your neighbor's house! No desiring your neighbor's spouse or worker — male or female—or ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor!

When the people witnessed the thunder and lightning and heard the sound like blaring trumpets, and saw the smoking mountain, they shook in fear. Keeping their distance, they said to Moses, "Speak to us and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, or it will surely be our death." But Moses said, "Don't be afraid. God's coming this way was simply a test for you, to give you a sense of awe and reverence, and to keep you from sinning."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *Open Thou Mine Eyes*

Rutter

SERMON **The Doing Part of Faith**

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

HYMN** ***Santo Santo Santo

Chalice Hymnal No. 111

Santo, santo, santo. ¡Mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir: ¡Santo eres Señor!

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, God!

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Creator God, for every expression of community, inclusion, and belonging, we give you thanks. Together, may we create space so that love might flourish ensuring none is left lonely or lost. Bless the gifts we share with open hearts and hands that all might be served and feast together at your welcome table. Amen.

***HYMN**

Let Us Break Bread Together

Chalice Hymnal No. 425

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)

(Refrain)

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

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.

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...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF BLESSING

One: I invite you to raise your hands over the food you share
in an ancient sign of blessing as we 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.

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.

Communion Servers:
Donna Perry
Laurie Kawa

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (unison)

God, we thank you for the gift of this global table where all are welcome, and none are strangers. Send us forth refreshed and renewed to bring justice and healing to our world. Knowing we are one in you regardless of our languages, cultures, or circumstances, may we reach out with open hands to share the embrace of your love so that all may live in unity and harmony in a more just and peaceful world. Amen.

*HYMN

We are All One in Mission Sing of the World Made New No. 150

We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan to work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,
so people of all nations may feel God's warm embrace.

We all behold one vision, a stark reality:
the steward of salvation was nailed upon a tree.
Yet resurrected Justice gives cause for us to share
free reconciliation and hope amid despair.

***BENEDICTION**

May the love of God surround you.
May the peace of Christ uphold you.
May the Holy Spirit accompany you.
Go into the world to love and serve all of God's people. Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Donna Perry
Digital Host: Beth Marshwood
Welcome Table: Tida Strey
Greeter: Ed Petersen

Cover by: Unsplash by Eric Prouzet

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11: Blessings of the Animals — During worship at 10:45 am

Do you have a pet in need of blessing? Would you like to honor the memory of an animal that you've lost? Our worship service on October 11 will include our annual blessing of the animals— all types of creatures will be included. There will also be a special prayer for beloved pets who have left us.

Let Pastor Jennifer (jennifer@rockvilleunitedchurch.org) know if you have lost a pet you would like us to remember by name.

October 18: RUC Stewardship Campaign 2027

We are opening our annual Stewardship Campaign with a special gathering after worship on Sunday, October 18. Come join us to:

Hear the stories behind our proposed budget numbers for 2027

- Learn more about the two areas that we are focusing upon this year
- Explore various ways to give to RUC
- Enjoy good food and fellowship

RUC members and friends have found a heart-filled home in our church community for almost 60 years. With your support, we will continue to thrive for the next 60 years—and beyond! Thank you!



As we continue to mark our nation's 250th birthday, let's come together as neighbors and friends from Rockville United Church, Tikvat Israel, Living Faith Lutheran Church, and Westmoreland Congregational UCC to share a meal and explore texts focused on America's emigration story through the lens of our many faith traditions. We do this as part of the faith250 initiative, a program created to encourage communities to explore the meaning of America at this moment. Our Coalition's clergy will be leading a discussion on two historical documents from a faith-based perspective. "[The New Colossus](#)" by Emma Lazarus (inscribed on the Statue of Liberty) and the text of a speech delivered to then-president Calvin Coolidge on behalf of [Native Americans](#).

Sunday, October 11, 2026, 4:30 pm
at Rockville United Church
355 Linthicum Street, Rockville, MD 20851

Vegetarian potluck (a link to sign up for the potluck will be sent after registration),
followed by a gathering for group study and listening.
There is no charge, but registration is required.
We will also be collecting food for the Living Faith Lutheran Church Food Pantry.



[REGISTER HERE FOR EVENT](#)





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.

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

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)