

Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC ***Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*** African-American

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Since I laid my burden down .

Feel like shouting, hallelujah!
Since I laid my burden down.

Glory, glory…

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!
Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.
Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame
Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"
But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!

HYMN** ***Let Justice Roll Like Streams New Century Hymnal No. 588

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, s

Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,
An ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)
God of justice, mercy, and everlasting love, we come before You with grateful hearts, thankful for Your patience, grace, and abiding presence. Forgive us when our worship is louder than our witness, when our words proclaim love but our actions fail to reflect it. Awaken us from complacency, and fill our lamps with the oil of compassion, courage, and faithful service. Transform our hearts so that we may be ready—not merely for Your coming, but for the opportunities to serve You in the world today. Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. May our gratitude be expressed not only in what we say, but in how we live, whom we welcome, and how we love. In the name of Jesus, who calls us to watch, work, and walk in love, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE ***Amen for Choir*** Abrahams

SCRIPTURE **Amos 5:18-24** NRSVUE

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light, as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.
All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN **Lunch From Home** Pastor Guy Johnson
By: Joshua David Stein
Illustrated by: Jung Li

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 Marian Coger.

ANTHEM ***The Storm Is Passing Over*** Tindley

SCRIPTURE **Matthew 25:1-13** NRSVUE

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION ***This Little Light of Mine*** African-American

SERMON **After Voting, Let Justice Roll!** Rev. Guy Johnson

HYMN** ***Keep Awake, Be Always Ready New Century Hymnal No. 112

Keep awake, be always ready, God's time approaches sure and steady, God's strength will keep your heart from blame. Clouds, the Spirit's light concealing, disperse. God's purest light revealing; creation will its Sovereign name.

Rise and shine for One is coming whose love will quench all nature's thirsting to be made whole forevermore. On that day to end all weeping, death's swords transformed to tools of reaping, the God of might will mercy pour.

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 John Abrahams

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)
God of justice, abundance, and grace, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts, recognizing that all we have comes from You. May our offerings be more than expressions of generosity; may they become instruments of justice, compassion, and transformation. As we prepare our lamps for Your coming, help us remain faithful in our stewardship, generous in our giving, and steadfast in our service. Use these gifts to lift the oppressed, welcome the stranger, and bring hope to those in need. Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, until Your love is made visible in all the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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, (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, (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, (life's brief span)
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, (may it find)
earth its destiny may find.

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!
Liturgist: Jed Johnson
Digital Host: John Junod
Welcome Table: Beth Frentrup
Greeter: Karl Knutsen

Welcome to Rockville United Church!

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We trust that you will find RUCto be a welcoming and engaging place to explore the life of faith within a communitythat honors each person's spiritual journey. We encourage you to ask questions, visit ourwebsite, 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

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Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light