



Rockville United Church

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

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026 ~ Hybrid Worship

Cover Image by Amanda Yum on unsplash.com.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC *O Freedom* African-American

O freedom, O freedom, O freedom over me
And before I'll be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave,
And go home to my Lord and be free.

They'll be singing...
No more weeping...

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Freedom is coming!

We can hear it in the voices of all calling for justice.

Hope is coming!

We can see it in the eyes of all longing for healing.

God is here!

We can feel it when we behold the image of God in one another.

Let us worship God,

who creates us and loves us.

Let us praise God,

who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community.

Let us give glory to God,

who lifts our spirits as we raise our song. (Nancy C. Townley,
adapted)

*HYMN *Let Freedom Ring*

Let freedom ring, O Lord,
till all in one accord
find liberty.
Loose all the chains that bind;
let none be left behind;
give strength to heart and mind,
and make us free.

Help us. O God, oppose
freedom's most ardent foes.
God, help us stand!
We'll march for what is right,
and trust you through the night
to see by morning's light
your promised land.

God, grant us courage now
to keep this sacred vow.
Your praise we sing.
We plant our feet on sod
where blessed saints have trod
We cry to our great God:
let freedom ring!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy One, source of hope, rest for the weary, fountain of grace, we acknowledge before you the ways we have broken sacred relationship with you and one another, by what we have done and what we have left undone. As we mark this anniversary in the life of our country, we confess the many ways we are conflicted and divided, among families, neighbors, communities, and even within ourselves. We celebrate the desire for freedom, equality, justice, and inclusion, even as we lament the ways we have corrupted and abused this vision. Especially today, we repent for a church that has celebrated America without acknowledging the role our patriarchal, white, Christian culture has played in colonization, displacement, enslavement, abuse, and terrorization of all who are most vulnerable. We pray, through the power of your abiding Spirit, that our lives might be transformed, individually, relationally, and communally. We pray in the assurance that new life is possible. We ask for the strength, courage, and persistence to seek your peace, justice, and wholeness for all people and creation. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

SCRIPTURE Psalm 145:8-14

The Inclusive Bible, revised

The Holy One is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Most High is good to all, and God's compassion is over all creation. All your creatures shall give thanks to you, O God, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your reign. Your reign is everlasting, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. You are faithful in all your words, and gracious in all your deeds. The Holy One upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN**Fireworks**

Pastor Jennifer

By: Matthew Burgess

Illustrator: Catia Chen

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 Marianna Nolan.

MUSICAL MEDITATION***I Will Arise***

African-American

SCRIPTURE Matthew 11:28-30 NRSV

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION***This Little Light***

African-American

**SERMON "Courage to Commit
To What Can Be"**

Rev. Jennifer R. Knutsen

***HYMN**
#722

This is My Song

Chalice Hymnal

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating,
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

This is my prayer, O Ruler of all nations:
let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.
In peace may all earth's people draw together,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;
myself I give thee, let thy will be done.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*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

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)

Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses,
for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in the land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.

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

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.*

Servers: Tom Hourigan & Diana Montero

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (unison)

Gracious God we thank you, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a

LITURGY OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

INTRODUCTION

AFFIRMATION OF GIFTS

One: There are different gifts,

All: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

One: There are different ways of serving God,

All: but it is the same God who is served.

One: God works through people in different ways.

All: but it is the same God whose purposes are fulfilled through them all.

One: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit

All: to be used for the common good.

THE PRESENTATION

Chris Frentrup, Council President

New Elders

Jed Johnson (Administration and Personnel), Diana Montero (Social Justice)
Candice Spock (Building), Karen Zeigler (Faith Formation)

Continuing Elders

Carol Abrahams (Worship and Music), Chris Frentrup (Council President), Denise
Giacomozzi (Stewardship), Frances Hockensmith (Earthcare), John Junod,
(Communications and Technology), Bill Kirby (Finance), Donna Perry-Lalley

Denominational Representatives

Suzanne Junod & Tom Hourigan (UCC);
Elizabeth Cooper-Martin & Dan Hockensmith (Presbyterian)

QUESTION TO THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: Do you promise to fulfill your call to the best of your ability in service of
Rockville United Church and for the glory of God?

Elders/Representatives: Yes, with the help of God and my fellow members.

AFFIRMATION FROM THE CONGREGATION

Council President: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promise of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

All: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus the Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church in actively caring for each other and the world.

***HYMN**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Chalice

Hymnal #453

(verses 1 & 4)

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

***BENEDICTION**

One: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

All: Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

One: Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

**All: Let us dream together, pray together, work together,
to build one world of peace and justice for all. Amen**

POSTLUDE

Liturgy adapted from Sundays and Seasons, copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress.

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@rockvillechurch.org*



Our complimentary Wi-Fi network is **Rockville Church**. 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

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

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light