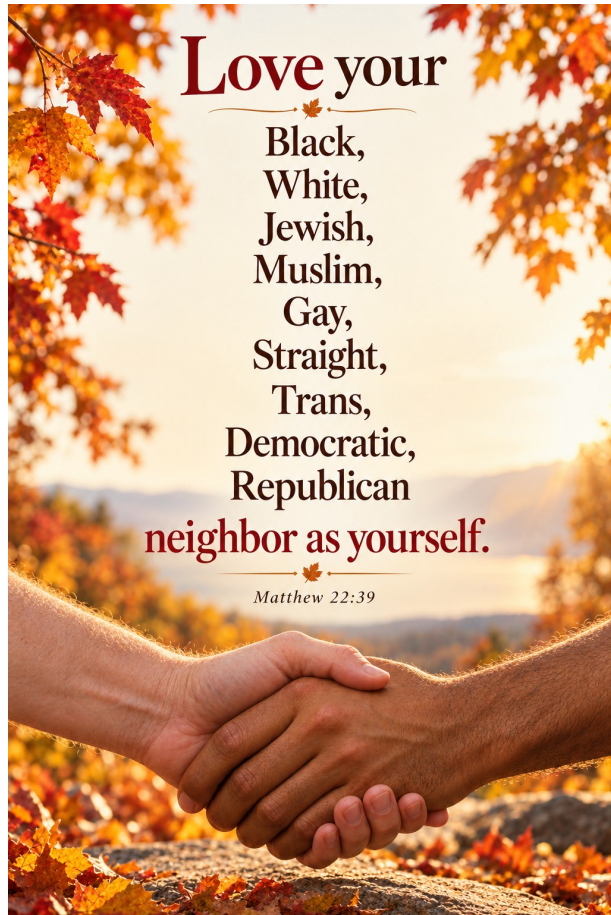




Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Prayer for Peace

Haas

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,

but their delight is in the law of our God, and on that law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

for our God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

*HYMN

Take My Life

Chalice Hymnal No. 609

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing; unto God my praise I bring.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

God of boundless love and transforming grace, you call us to love You with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Transform our hearts where prejudice divides, fear separates, and judgment replaces compassion. Teach us to embrace every neighbor, recognizing Your sacred image in all people. Remind us that everything we have is a gift from you, entrusted to our care. Inspire us to be faithful stewards of our time, talents, and treasure, giving generously not out of obligation, but out of gratitude and love. May our worship inspire welcome, out daith demand justice, and our generosity become an expression of Your grace. Give us courage to love without conditions, serve without hesitation, and share without fear. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Seven-Fold Amen

Reid

SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Inclusive Bible

God told Moses to tell the entire Israelite community these things. Be holy, for I, God, am holy.

Do not be corrupt in administering justice. Do not show partiality to the poor or give honor to the great. Judge your neighbor with fairness. Do not go about slandering others. Do not profit by the blood of your neighbor. I am God. Do not nurse hatred for a neighbor. If you are angry with your neighbor, speak frankly about it, to avoid storing up ill feelings. Never seek revenge or hold a grudge toward your relatives. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am God.

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 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.

ANTHEM***Ubi Caritas***

Durufle

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. *Where charity and love are, God is there.*
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. *Christ's love has gathered us into one.*
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur. *Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.*
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum. *Let us fear, and let us love the living God.*

SCRIPTURE**Matthew 22:34-40**

The Inclusive Bible

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?

Jesus answered:

You must love the Most High God
with all your heart,
with all your soul and
with all your mind.”

That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law is based—and the Prophets as well.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION***Sending You Light***

Demure

SERMON**No Exception**

Rev. Guy Johnson

HYMN**More Love to Thee, O Christ***

Chalice Hymnal No. 527

More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee! Hear thou the pray’r I make, on bended knee; this is my earnest plea, more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee, more love to thee.

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; now thee alone I seek, give what is best; this all my pray’r shall be, more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee, more love to thee.

Let sorrow do its work, send grief and pain; sweet are thy messengers, sweet their refrain, when they can sing with me, more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee, more love to thee.

Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise; this be the parting cry my heart shall raise,
this still its pray'r shall be, more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee, more love to
thee.

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

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)

Gracious and loving God, You have called us to love You with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. As we dedicate these gifts, may they become expressions of that love, reaching beyond these walls to bring hope, healing, and justice to our community and world. Bless not only what we give, but also the spirit in which we give it. Transform our generosity into ministry, our resources into opportunities for service, and our gratitude into faithful stewardship. May these offerings reflect our commitment to loving You by loving one another, without condition of exception. Amen.

***HYMN**

Jesus, Jesu

Chalice Hymnal No. 600

(Refrain)

Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are near and far away.

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you.

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Ed Peterson

Digital Host: Karl Knutsen

Welcome Table: Elizabeth Cooper-Martin

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