



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

A Voice Is Heard

O'Brien/Watts

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

All: **I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

One: Things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

All: **We will not hide them from their children;**

One: We will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of our God

All: **And the might and wonders that have been done.**

*HYMN

All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name

Chalice Hymnal No. 91

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

O sinners, who can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all;
go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
we'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Welcoming God, you receive and bless all who come to you in humility. Show us our false pride, that we may repent of all conceit and arrogance and, caring for one another, may honor Jesus to the glory of your name. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Somber Amen

Trad.

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:1-13

The Inclusive Bible

If our life in Christ means anything to you—if love, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness or sympathy can persuade you at all— then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble: value others over yourselves, each of you thinking of the interests of others before your own. ⁵ Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Christ, though in the image of God, didn't deem equality with God something to be clung to—but instead became completely empty and took on the image of oppressed humankind: born into the human condition, found in the likeness of a human being. Jesus was thus humbled—obediently accepting death, even death on a cross! Because of this, God highly exalted Christ and gave to Jesus the name above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God: Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

Therefore, my dear friends, you who are always obedient to my urging, work out your salvation with fear and trembling, not only when I happen to be with you, but all the more now that I'm absent. It is God at work in you that creates the desire to do God's will.

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**Kyrie**

XI Century

SCRIPTURE**Mathew 21:23-32**

The Inclusive Bible

Jesus entered the Temple precincts and began teaching. The chief priests and the elders of the people came to him and said, "By what authority are you doing what you do? Who gave you this authority?"

"And I," replied Jesus, "will ask you a single question; if you give me the answer, I will tell you my authority for these actions. What was the origin of John's right to baptize? Was it divine or was it human?"

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'divine,' he will respond, 'Then why did you refuse to believe him?' But if we say 'human,' we have the people to fear, for they regard John as a prophet." So they replied to Jesus, "We don't know."

Jesus said in reply, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Jesus continued, "What do you think? There was a landowner who had two children. The landowner approached the elder and said, 'My child, go out and work in the vineyard today.' This first child replied, 'No, I won't,' but afterwards regretted it and went. The landowner then came to the second child and said the same thing. The second child said in reply, 'I'm on my way,' but never went. ³¹ Which of the two did what was wanted?"

They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "The truth is, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came walking on the road of justice, you didn't believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you didn't repent and believe.

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**"Who Do You Think You Are?"**

Rev. Guy Johnson

***HYMN**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Chalice Hymnal No. 16

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

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 God, you call us not only to speak of faith, but to live it. As we offer these gifts, shape our “yes” into faithful action. Use what we give to bring justice, mercy, healing, and hope to your world. May our generosity bear witness to your kingdom and our lives reflect your love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

O for a Thousand Tongues

Chalice Hymnal No. 5

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
’tis music in the sinner’s ears, ’tis life, and health, and peace.

My loving Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Elizabeth Cooper-Martin

Digital Host: John Junod

Welcome Table: Tida Strey

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

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light