



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Prayer of St. Francis

Carey Creed

Lord make me an instrument of your peace.
(Congregation is invited to join in on the chorus)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

How wonderful are the works of God's hands!

The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills,
the rivers and lakes all disclose Divine Presence.

The roaring breakers of the sea tell of God's awesome might;
the beasts of the field and birds of the air speak of God's wondrous ways.

The Holy One has made us able to perceive the music of the world.

A divine voice sings through all creation.

How wonderful are the works of our Creator!

Let everything that breathes praise God!

Let us worship God in awe and wonder.

Jewish Prayer, adapted

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Chalice Hymnal No. 61

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: in love God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings:
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings.
(Refrain)

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.
(Refrain)

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one
(Refrain)

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as kin to us, all animals as partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design.

Give us wisdom and humility to treat with compassion the living creatures entrusted to our care, that they may not suffer neglect, nor be cruelly treated. We are sorry for the ways we have hurt or neglected animals, destroyed their homes in forests, oceans, deserts, and fields. We are sorry for the ways we have hurt or neglected the land and water and air. Cultivate within us deeper understanding and love for all creation that we might honor the place of all things in the circle of life. Amen

Adapted from prayers for animals in God’s Good Earth, Rowthorn

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Somber Amen

Trad.

READING

Eagle Poem

by Joy Harjo

To pray you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
to one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
that you can’t see, can’t hear,
Can’t know except in moments
Steadily growing, and in languages
that aren’t always sound but other
Circles of motion.
Like eagle that Sunday morning
Over Salt River. Circled in blue sky
In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.
We see you, see ourselves and know
that we must take the utmost care
And kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon within a
True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.
We pray that it will be done
In beauty.
In beauty.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Rev. 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. Our nursery helper is Marian Coger.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

ANTHEM

Teach Me (From Native American Thoughts)

Portfield

SCRIPTURE

Job 12:7-10

The Inclusive Bible

But turn to the animals, and let them teach you;
the birds of the air will tell you the truth.

Listen to the plants of the earth, and learn from them;
let the fish of the sea become your teachers.

Who among all these does not know
that the hand of God has done this?

In God’s hand is the soul of every living thing;
in God’s hand is the breath of all humankind.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Sending You Light

Demore

SERMON

The Birds And The Buffalo

Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

***HYMN**

God of the Sparrow

Chalice Hymnal No. 70

God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,
All: *Receive our prayers.*

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES

(Philip Newell interpretation)

Ground of all being, Mother of Life, Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings
in heart and in action.
May there be food for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life, the vitality of life, and the glory of life
are yours now and 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)

**Make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy. Amen.**

(attributed to St. Francis of Assisi)

***HYMN**

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
and every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn to offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in—they're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, they offer praise to you.
O God, you call us to embrace these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace to all pets everywhere.

Your creatures live in every land; they fill the sky and sea.
O God, you give us your command to love them tenderly.
We're call to have dominion here—to care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, we offer you our praise.

***BENEDICTION**

from Chinook psalter

One: Blessing of green plants, blessing of forests;
Blessing of fish and birds, blessing of mammals.
May all humankind likewise offer blessing...

**All: Bless the wisdom of the Holy One above us;
Bless the truth of the Holy One beneath us;
Bless the love of the Holy One within us. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!
Liturgist: Elizabeth Cooper-Martin
Digital Host: John Junod

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