

Rockville United Church

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

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In God's house, we are free to be ourselves.
In God's house, we may come exactly as we are.
In God's house, we dare to hope.
We dream new dreams. We cry out.
We call upon God.
In God's house all are welcome.
So come and worship.
God is here. God is with us.

GATHERING MUSIC ***When God is a Child*** Chalice Hymnal No. 132

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE Christine, Johnathan, Jane and George Guest

When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
we turn our eyes to the stars.
When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
we stand together, arm in arm.
When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
we cry out to God without holding back.
And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
we gather together to light the candle of hope.

(The first candle is lit)

Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.
Until God's promised day, may it be so.
Amen.

ADVENT SONG** ***Sing Out With Great Joy Pattison/Poe/Reid

Sing out with great joy for Christmas now approaches.
Watch for his arrival, the little baby boy.
Your savior is coming; put out the advent wreath.
And light the advent candle one: He comes, He comes.

***SHARING THE HOPE OF CHRIST**

You are invited to greet your neighbors with these words:
The hope of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

HYMN** ***Hope of the World Chalice Hymnal No. 538

Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion:
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
save us, your people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:
still let your Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light:
walk now beside us, lest the tempting byways
lure us away from you to endless night.

SCRIPTURE **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** NRSVUE

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. O God of Hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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. Our nursery helper is Cindy Livingston.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM **George Cecil Guest**

Presentation of the Candidate Chris Frentrup, Council President

Address

Congregational Assent

One: Jesus calls us to welcome all people as his disciples and to offer anyone who seeks it, the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care of George as he lives and grows as a disciple of Christ?

All: We promise our love, support and care.

Questions to the Parents and Godparents

Prayer of Baptism (in unison)

We thank you, God, for your love in all creation, especially for your gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. We thank you that through the waters of baptism you cleanse us. Renew us by your Spirit and bring us to new life. Thanks to you, eternal God, who was, and is, and always shall be. Amen.

Act of Baptism

Presentation

Closing Prayer

One: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O Holy One, for George and for the grace acknowledged here today through water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all in the one household of your love, and help us to receive, nurture and befriend George as a member of the body of Christ.

All: We pray that George will have the strength needed for life's journey, the courage required in times of suffering, the joy of faith the freedom of love, and the hope of new life. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE ***This Little Light of Mine***

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine….
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine….

SCRIPTURE **Isaiah 64:1-9** NRSVUE

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for you.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Holy One, you are our God; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O God, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM ***Sleepers Wake*** Bach

SERMON **A Glimmer of Hope** Rev. Jennifer Knutsen

HYMN** ***View the Present Through the Promise Sing the World Made New No. 167

View the present through the promise,
Christ will come again.
Trust despite the deepening darkness,
Christ will come again.
Lift the world above its grieving
through your watching and believing
in the hope past hope's conceiving:
Christ will come again.

Probe the present with the promise,
Christ will come again.
Let your daily actions witness,
Christ will come again.
Let your loving and your giving
and your justice and forgiving
be a sign to all the living:
Christ will come again.

Match the present to the promise,
Christ will come again.
Make this hope your guiding premise,
Christ will come again.
Pattern all your calculating
and the world you are creating
to the advent you're awaiting:
Christ will come again.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison)
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

As we share our gifts, we remember that in serving one another, we serve the Christ among us.

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 grace, in the midst of pain and injustice, we trust your steadfast love always moves and shapes the world for good. In hope and thanksgiving, we add the gifts of our lives to magnify and proclaim your love always ready to be born anew into the world. Keep us engaged and hopeful until the dawn of your light shines forth. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF OUR RENOVATED CHURCH KITCHEN

Appreciation and Presentation to

Beth Frentrup, Nancy Clark, Donna Lalley, Susan Kirby, Chris Frentrup

Invitation

One: Throughout his ministry, Jesus gathered people around tables. He fed hungry crowds, welcomed strangers, and shared meals with people others turned away. Today, we dedicate this renovated kitchen to that same ministry of nourishment, welcome, and love.

Litany of Dedication

One: For the food that will be prepared here and the hands that will prepare it—

All: We give thanks, O God.

One: For those who planned, gave, built, installed, cleaned, and brought this work to completion—

All: We give thanks, O God.

One: For meals that will nourish bodies, friendships that will nourish spirits, and laughter that will fill this room—

All: Make this a place of joy and belonging.

One: For neighbors facing hunger, families carrying burdens, and anyone longing for a place at the table—

All: May our welcome be generous and our doors open wide.

One: For the work of feeding people with dignity, serving one another with care and sharing what we have—

All: We dedicate this kitchen to your service.

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Generous God, source of life and giver of daily bread, bless this kitchen and all whowill work here. Bless the appliances, that they may serve us well. Bless the counters, where meals will take shape. Bless the hands that chop and stir, cook and serve, wash and put away. Grant patience when the work is demanding cooperation when the room is crowded, and good humor when a recipe takes an unexpected turn. May the abundance we store here become abundance we share. Keep us attentive to hunger in our community and give us the will to respond. Let everyone we feed know that their life matters, their presence is welcome, and they belong. In the name of Jesus, who still calls us to feed his people, we dedicate this kitchen to your glory and the good of our neighbors. Amen.

Sending

One: Our kitchen is dedicated. The work of hospitality continues.

All: With grateful hearts and willing hands, we will prepare, serve, and share. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN** ***People Look East Chalice Hymnal No. 142

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

***BENEDICTION**

Gathering one! Embracing one! Arriving one!
Love, our guest, our light, our hope
Open our hearts to find you among us,
In the justice-seeking, peace-making work of your people. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Join us for the Kitchen Rededication after service!
It has been a l-o-n-g process, but at last the kitchen renovation has been completed! Please join us immediately after the service for a rededication and celebration. Come admire our renovated space and thank the people who have worked hard to make it happen—and enjoy some refreshments.

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

Liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Advent and Christmas at RUC

Join us as we prepare for the Advent & Christmas season!



2026 Christmas Pageant Sign up!

Preparations are underway for our Christmas Pageant which will take place during Sunday, December 13 10:45 am worship service. There are roles for children, youth and adults of all ages.

To participate, please:

- SIGN UP by December 6
Complete this form and return to Pastor Jennifer by December 6.
Pastor Jennifer will assign you a part following your preferences.

- BE FITTED FOR YOUR COSTUME on December 6 or 12
Following worship December 6 or on rehearsal day December 12

- ATTEND PAGEANT REHEARSAL
Saturday, December 12 at 10:30 AM - Noon.
Walk-through the pageant, practice lines & more costume fittings
Including pizza lunch & cookie decorating (and eating!) in Kaseman Hall

- ATTEND PAGEANT DAY! (no Sunday School)
Sunday, December 13 arrive at 10:30 AM
10:30 AM for preparations and costuming on lower level
Christmas Fiesta with Pinata in Kaseman Hall following worship

Any Questions?
Contact Pastor Jennifer
jennifer@rockvilleunitedchurch.org
202-538-9941

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

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light