



Rockville United Church

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

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025 ~ Hybrid Worship

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

In a Mellow Tone

Ellington

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 1)

Happy are those who delight in the law of the Holy One.
They are centered in love and meditate on it day and night.

**God watches over the way of those who do justice,
but those on the path of violence and injustice will find themselves forever lost.**

Happy are those who delight in the law of the Holy One.
They are like trees planted by flowing water that bear fruit in every season.

**God watches over the way of those who do justice,
but those on the path of violence and injustice will find themselves forever lost.**

Happy are those who delight in the law of the Holy One.
They prosper and grow; their leaves do not wither.

**God watches over the way of those who do justice,
but those on the path of violence and injustice will find themselves forever lost.**

Let us delight in the way of the Holy One, who leads us in paths of righteousness.
Let us worship God whose love never ends.

*HYMN

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service Chancel Hymnal, No. 461
(verses 1-3)

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart
consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light,
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving your abundant life to share.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

God of rainbow, we come to you in this moment of great challenge and ask for your guidance and strength. Help us to stand firm in the face of oppression, to be voices for justice and love in a world that too often chooses hate. Empower us to embrace and protect the diversity of your creation, to uplift the marginalized, to defend women's reproductive rights, to proclaim that Black lives matter, today and always, and to welcome immigrants and refugees with open arms and open hearts. Fill our hearts with courage. May we walk boldly in your love, trusting in your promise that justice will prevail. Amen.

Reed Kirkman, McKinney, TX from UCC Prayers for Peace

CHORAL RESPONSE

Prayer For Peace

Haas

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 17:5-10

The Inclusive Bible

Yahweh says: “Cursed are those who trust in human ways, who rely on things of the flesh, whose hearts turn away from Yahweh. They are like stunted vegetation in the desert with no hope in the future. It stands in stony wastes in the desert, and uninhabited land of salt. Blessed are those who put their trust in God, with God for their hope. They are like a tree planted by the river that thrusts its roots toward the stream. When the heat comes it feels no heat; its leaves stay green. It is untroubled in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit. The human heart is more deceitful than anything else, and desperately sick—who can understand it? I, Yahweh, search into the heart, I probe the mind, to give each person what their actions and conduct deserve.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: ***Thanks be to God.***

WORD FOR CHILDREN [Finding Home: Words from Kids Seeking Sanctuary](#)

by Gwen Agna and Shelley Rotner

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 pick up 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

Almighty God, Who Hast Me Brought

Ford

SCRIPTURE**Luke 6:17-26**

The Inclusive Bible

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon— people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all. Looking at the disciples, Jesus said: “You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours. You who hunger now are blessed, for you’ll be filled. You who weep now are blessed, for you’ll laugh. You are blessed when people hate you, when they scorn and insult you and spurn your name as evil because of the Chosen One. On the day they do so, rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in heaven, for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way. But woe to you rich, for you are now receiving your comfort in full. Woe to you who are full, for you’ll go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you’ll weep in your grief. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

“Doing Good Trouble Today”

Dr. Donna Perry

HYMN**Fill the World with Love***

Chalice Hymnal, No. 467

With the vision in our minds of how the world could be,
and the fullness of our hearts from the suffering we see;
when we make all that we are and have part of God’s destiny,
we can fill the world with love, we can fill the world with love.

All the people in this world living lives of pain and fear,
crying out into the night, wond’ring when someone will hear;
while there are so many others having so much they can share,
can we fill the world with love, can we fill the world with love.

We whose spirits long to share, long to comfort and to heal,
know that when we act alone, hope is difficult to feel;
but together as we labor God’s compassion to reveal
we will fill the world with love, we will fill the world with love.

Let us hesitate no longer in our doubt and our dismay;
there's a pow'r at work within us that has promised a new day.
And the time will surely come, it will not be long delayed
when God fills the world with love, when God fills the world with love.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Refrain: One: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: *Receive our prayers.*

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison) an interpretation from New Zealand
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

God's abundant gifts are enough for all to be well. By sharing our blessings, we demonstrate faith, trust and love. Let us offer our gifts in gratitude and generosity.

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)

Generous God, you have planted generosity in our hearts. Receive our gifts as part of your redemptive work to save the world from inequities, pain, and despair. May our resources be renewed and magnified so that all needs are met and your name be praised. Amen.

***HYMN**

O For a World

Chalice Hymnal, No. 683

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

***BENEDICTION**

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

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

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

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

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Lori Merrill

Digital Host: Carlotta Watkins

Greeter: Ed Peterson

Welcome Table: Mary Wallace

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.



Rockville United Church

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

355 Linthicum Street, Rockville, Maryland 20851

301-424-6733 ~ www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org

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

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light