



Rockville United Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ
11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026 ~ Hybrid Workshop

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CELEBRATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Oh Freedom

African American

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let me hear what God will speak,
for God will speak peace to the people,
to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

**Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God,
that the glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

Yahweh will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before Yahweh
and will make a path for their steps.**

Opening Prayer:

**Holy One, when the winds of fear rise and the waves around us seem overwhelming,
remind us that you are always near. Give us the courage to step out in faith, to trust
your presence even when we cannot see the way ahead, and to keep our eyes on Christ
rather than on our doubts. Guide our hearts and our work together today, so that we
may be instruments of your hope, peace, and love. Amen.**

*HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Chalice Hymnal No. 66

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praises we render: O help us to see
that only the splendor of light hideth thee.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHORAL RESPONSE

Let the Word of the Mouth

David

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:9-18

The Inclusive Bible

And the word of YHWH came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Elijah replied, “I have been very zealous for you YHWH God Omnipotent. The people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death by the sword. I am the only one left, and now they’re trying to kill me, too.” God said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of YHWH, for YHWH is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountain apart and shattered the rocks by YHWH’s power – but YHWH was not in the whirlwind. After the wind there was an earthquake – but YHWH was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire – but YHWH was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He replied, “Elijah replied, “I have been very zealous for YHWH God Omnipotent. The people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death by the sword. I am the only one left, and now they’re trying to kill me too.” YHWH told Elijah, “Go back the way you came, to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael as ruler of Aram. Also anoint Jehu ben Nimshi as ruler over Israel, and anoint Elisha ben-Shapat, from Abel Meholah, to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve 7,000 in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Ba’al and all whose mouths have not kissed his images.”

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

After the Fall

Pastor Guy Johnson

Authored and Illustrated by: Dan Santat

Nursery care for infants through age 3 is available in the nursery on the lower level.

Our nursery caregiver is Caitlin Vrendenburg. Our nursery helper is Donna Lalley.

Older children are encouraged to remain in worship. The rug space in the sanctuary is available for quiet play, coloring and reading.

ANTHEM**Honey in the Rock**

Ligertwood and Lake

SCRIPTURE**Matthew 14:22-33****The Inclusive Bible**

Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side. Having sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. Meanwhile the boat, already a thousand yards from shore, was being tossed about in the waves which had been raised by the fierce winds. At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the lake. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified. "It is a ghost!" they said, and in their fear they began to cry out. Jesus hastened to reassure them: Don't worry, it's me! Don't be afraid!" Peter spoke up and said, "If it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water." "Come!" Jesus said. So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened. He began to sink, and cried out, "Save me!" Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught Peter. "You have so little faith!" Jesus said to him. "Why did you doubt?" Once they had climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat showed great reverence, declaring to Jesus, "You are indeed God's Own!"

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

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**Bind Us Together**

Gillman

SERMON**"An If Then Situation"**

Pastor Guy Johnson

HYMN**My Faith Looks Up To Thee***

Chalice Hymnal No. 576

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my
guilt away; oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's
tears away; nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES

Our Creator, who dwells among us and beyond us, holy is your name.

May your vision of justice, peace, and love take root in every heart. May your hope for creation be lived on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the bread we need— food for our bodies, wisdom for our minds, and compassion for our spirits.

Forgive us when we fall short, as we forgive those who have wronged us. Free us from resentment, and restore us to right relationship with you, with one another, and with all creation.

Guide us through times of trial, and strengthen us to resist all that diminishes life.

Deliver us from evil, from fear, hatred, injustice, and despair.

For the kin-dom of love, the power of compassion, and the glory of abundant 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)

Generous God, you have blessed us with more than we could ever earn and entrusted us with gifts to share. Receive these offerings and dedicate them to your work of healing, justice, compassion, and hope. May what we give today help others find courage in life's storms and remind them that your love never lets us go. Use both these gifts and our lives to reflect your grace in the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

Chalice Hymnal No. 337

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me";

Jesus calls us in our sorrows,
days of vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Thanks to our worship helpers today!

Liturgist: Carol Abrahams

Digital Host: Ryan Zeigler

Welcome Table: Mary Wallace

Greeter: Carol Bossert

The flowers on the altar this morning are from Miriam Jackson in memoriam of her son,
Drew Lyon, on the anniversary of his transition.

Cover Credit: Image imagined by Rev. Guy S. Johnson.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
September 11-13, 2026 at Camp Pecometh

It is time to mark your calendars for Camp Pecometh – RUC’s intergeneration camp on the Chester River. Plan to join RUC for a weekend of fun, worship and time together. Join RUC for this over 25-year tradition.

Deposits are due August 16. Final payments are due **September 1**. [Register here!](#)

CABINS: Individual: \$125 each, family of three: \$375, additional family members: \$50 each

RETREAT CENTER: There are 24 hotel-style rooms in the retreat center. \$400 double occupancy, additional family members: \$50 each

PAY IT FORWARD: You may make an extra donation to the Camp Pecometh Scholarship Fund to enable all who want to attend Camp Pecometh by adding an extra little something to your payment, and a note it is to “Pay it Forward!” (There is a memo line in the online donation form to do this.) Thank you!

For more information, or to discuss accommodations, please call Denise Rozell at (301) 787-6814.

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