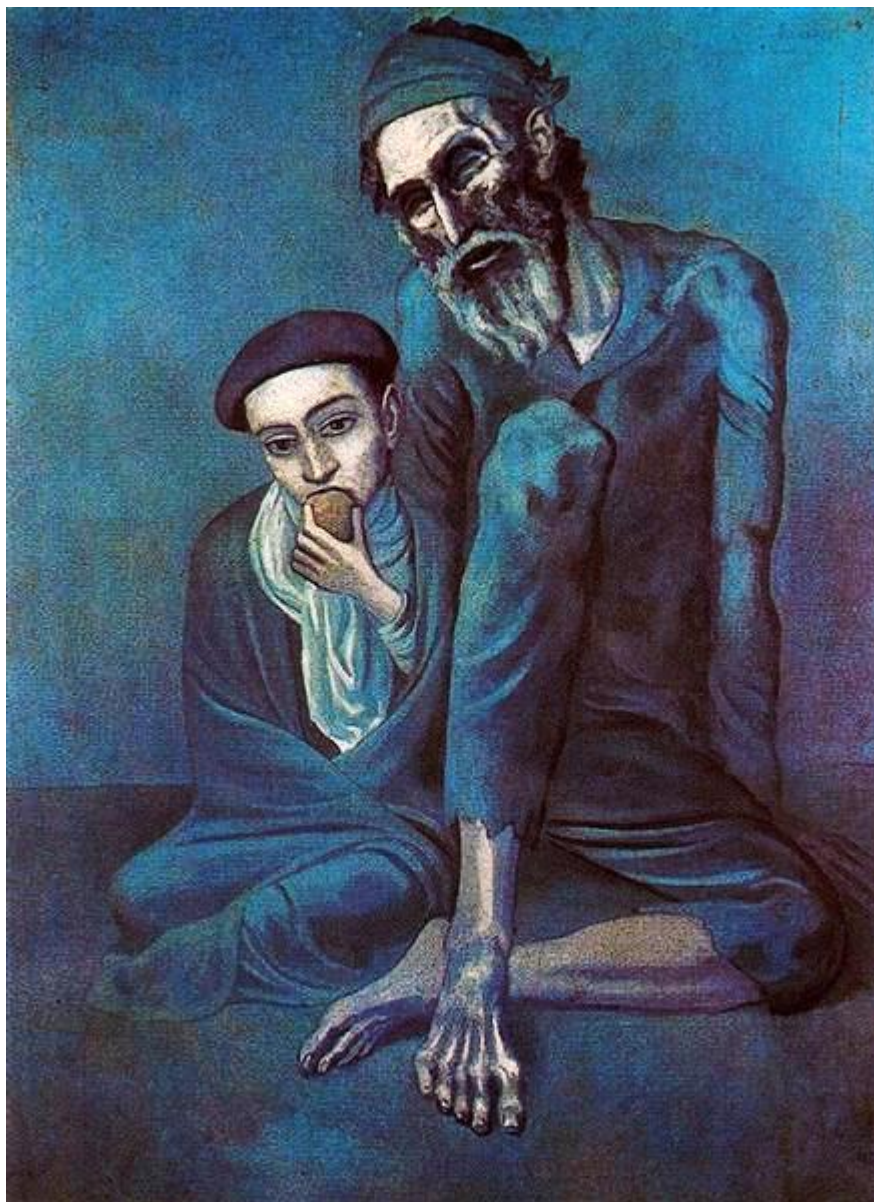


September 6, 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Old blind man with boy, Pablo Picasso, 1903

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with any Session member or the Pastor.

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us

The Spirit and the Church say, "Come."

The people of the Word say, "Come."

Let everyone who is thirsty come.

Receive the gift of the water of life.

Gathering Hymn

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

#722

**1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone.**

**As you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.**

**2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.**

**3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.**

**4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

**5 O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
open our hearts
to the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may completely love you
and magnify your holy fullness;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in
God's grace, let us confess our sin...

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways
to the glory of your holy name.**

Silence is kept for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

Within the great love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God

Response in Praise

Glory Be to the Father

#581

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.**

THE WORD

A Time with the Children

Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-18

3 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; **3** the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. **4** Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!"^[a] and he said, "Here I am!" **5** and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. **6** The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." **7** Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. **8** The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. **9** Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." **11** Then the LORD said to

Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God,^[b] and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷ Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

Sermon

The Call

Illumination Hymn

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

#728

Somebody's knocking at your door;
somebody's knocking at your door;
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knocking at your door.

1 Knocks like Jesus.
Somebody's knocking at your door.
Knocks like Jesus.
Somebody's knocking at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knocking at your door.

2 Can't you hear him?
Somebody's knocking at your door.
Can't you hear him?
Somebody's knocking at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knocking at your door.

3 Answer Jesus.
Somebody's knocking at your door.

Answer Jesus.
Somebody's knocking at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knocking at your door.

Together, We Confess Our Faith

The Apostle's Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONDING

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

#606

Prayer of Dedication

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness
you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love;
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

#525

1 Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (Refrain)

3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (Refrain)

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise to you, O God, for all your works.

You created the world and called it good
and made us in your image to live together in love.

You made a covenant with us,
and even when we turned from you,
you remained ever faithful.

Therefore, with all creation, we sing your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son

To visibly shepherd us, your followers,
to live among us and tell your story,
to heal the sick and welcome sinners,
to share your pain and die your death;
and then to rise to new life that we might live,
and all creation be restored.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ
and that we may be his body for the world.
By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another.
All glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever more.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our father 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. Lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Communion

*Please partake of the communion elements at home as the participants in
the sanctuary partake.*

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Sending Hymn

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
Here I Am, Lord*

#69

**1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,

I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them.

They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them.

Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,

I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide

till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them.

Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

Blessing and Charge

May the spirit of the triune God Strengthen and sustain you,

All throughout the life to come.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, proclaiming the messenger of
reconciliation God has entrusted to us.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Response

Spirit of the Living God

#288

Spirit of the living God,

fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,

fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me;
fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Postlude



Rockville Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability or marital status. We also welcome and encourage the full participation of persons without regard to sexual orientation.