

September 13, 2020

## *Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



Swineherd, Brittany, [Paul Gauguin](#) 1888

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**

***God Is Here!***

**#409**

**1 God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.**

**2 Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**3 Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here, as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.**

**4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!**

### **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**

<b>Response in Praise</b>	<b>Halle, Halle, Hallelujah</b>	<b>#591</b>
Halle, halle, hallelujah!		
Halle, halle, hallelujah!		
Halle, halle, hallelujah!		
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!		

## THE WORD

### A Time with the Children

**Gospel**                      **Mark 5:1-20**

**5** They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. <sup>[a]</sup> **2** And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. **3** He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; **4** for he had often

been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; <sup>7</sup> and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." <sup>8</sup> For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." <sup>10</sup> He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup> Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; <sup>12</sup> and the unclean spirits<sup>[c]</sup> begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." <sup>13</sup> So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

<sup>14</sup> The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. <sup>15</sup> They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. <sup>17</sup> Then they began to beg Jesus<sup>[d]</sup> to leave their neighborhood. <sup>18</sup> As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. <sup>19</sup> But Jesus<sup>[e]</sup> refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." <sup>20</sup> And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

## Sermon

## *Encountering Other Gods*

### Illumination Hymn

### *The Church's One Foundation*

#321

**1 The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation  
by water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride.  
With his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.**

**2 Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with every grace endued.**

**3 Though with a scornful wonder  
this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.**

**4 Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore:  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.**

**5 Yet she on earth has union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
may live eternally.**

## **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.**

### **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.**

## **SENDING**

### **Opportunities for Service and Fellowship**

1 We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

***Refrain:***

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)

3 We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)

4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (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.**

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.*