

September 27, 2020

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Boy with a Butterfly Net, Henri Matisse, 1907

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**

Response in Praise

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

#591

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

THE WORD

A Time with the Children

Reading

Mark 10:17-31

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money^[a] to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples

were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is^[b] to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another,^[c] “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,^[d] ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Working for Salvation?

Illumination Hymn

Breath on Me, Breath of God

#286

**1 Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.**

**3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

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.

Prayers of the People

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

Sending Hymn

Go to the World!

#295

**1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

**2 Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

**3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

**4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Charge and Blessing

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.