

November 15, 2020

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Paths to Art, Paulamaria Walter, 1963

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

Keep silence before the Lord God!

The day of the Lord is at hand

Surely God is our Salvation;

trust in the Lord and do not be afraid.

Gathering Hymn

Open the Eyes of My Heart

#452

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.

Open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see you;

I want to see you;

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.

Open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see you;

I want to see you;

**to see you high and lifted up,
shining in the light of your glory.**

**Pour out your power and love
as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."**

Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy,

I want to see you.

Opening Prayer

Ever-living God,

Before the earth was formed

And even after it shall cease to be, you are God.

Break into our short span of life

And show us those things that are eternal,

That we may serve your purpose in all we do;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Who lives and reigns with you
In unity with the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.
Amen.

Call to Confession

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us. With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God,
In whom we live and move and have our being,
Whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
And whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:
Cleanse us from all our offenses,
And deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
And deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
That with reverent and humble hearts
We may draw near to you,
Confessing our faults,
Confiding in your grace,
And finding in you our refuge and strength;
Through Jesus Christ your Son.**

Silence is kept for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

Because we were buried with Christ in these waters, we are also raised to life with him.

**Trust in the Gospel, the Good News! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Amen.**

Response in Praise

Praise to God the Father

#605

**Praise to God the Father;
praise to God the Son;
praise to God the Spirit:
praise to the Three-in-One.
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Almighty;
praise to the Holy One.**

THE WORD

A Time with the Children

First Reading

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Lay Leader: Anne Baur

7 Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps
and punish those who are complacent,
who are like wine left on its dregs,
who think, 'The LORD will do nothing,
either good or bad.'

13 Their wealth will be plundered,
their houses demolished.

Though they build houses,
they will not live in them;
though they plant vineyards,
they will not drink the wine."

14 The great day of the LORD is near—
near and coming quickly.

The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter;
the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.

15 That day will be a day of wrath—
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of trouble and ruin,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness—

16 a day of trumpet and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the corner towers.

17 "I will bring such distress on all people
that they will grope about like those who are blind,
because they have sinned against the LORD.

Their blood will be poured out like dust
and their entrails like dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath."

In the fire of his jealousy
the whole earth will be consumed,
for he will make a sudden end
of all who live on the earth.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Matthew 25:14:30

¹⁴ “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, ^[a] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Parables!

1 We praise you, O God,
our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion
our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you;
we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name;
glad praises we sing.

2 We worship you, God of
our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest
our guide you have been.
When perils o’ertake us,
you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord,
our struggles we win.

3 With voices united
our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of
thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us,
your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer,
forever be praise!

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 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

#451

**1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.**

And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Blessing and Charge

The blessing of the one God-
Spirit, Son and Father-
Be with you now and always.
Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in honor of Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.
Thanks be to God, Amen.

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.