

July 4, 2021

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Cain and Abel, Marc Chagall, 1960

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

*-- Indicates that all who are able may stand

Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response

Hymns are found in either in the hardcover **GLORY TO GOD Hymnal**.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Gathering Hymn *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

#423 (vs. 1, 3)

**1 Create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**3 Restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Opening Prayer

God of the covenant,
In our baptism you called us
To proclaim the coming of your kingdom.
Give us courage like you gave the apostles,
That we may faithfully witness to your love and peace
In every circumstance of life,
In the name of Jesus Christ our redeemer,
Who live and reigns with you
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.

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. Trusting in God's grace, let us, together, confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our failure to be what you created us to be.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
By your loving mercy,
help us to live in your light
and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Silence is kept for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God,

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

Genesis 4:1-16

Lay Leader: Bernice Brown

4 Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced^[a] a man with the help of the LORD." **2** Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. **3** In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, **4** and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, **5** but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. **6** The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? **7** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

8 Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. **9** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" **10** And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! **11** And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. **12** When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." **13** Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! **14** Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." **15** Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. **16** Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Not How It's Supposed to Be

*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

Eternal God,
we praise you that your glory has dawned on us,
and brought us into this Day of Resurrection.
We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son,
and that he has conquered death,
risen to rule over all powers of this earth.
We praise you that he summons us into new life,
to follow him with joy and gladness.
By your Spirit,
lift us from doubt and despair,
and set our feet in Christ's holy way,
that our lives may be signs of his life,
and all we have may show forth his love.
Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you,
our God, forever and ever.

Amen.

***Communion Hymn *Let Us Break Bread Together* #525 (vs. 1, 3)**

**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)**

**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

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them 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.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son.

He lived among us and told your story.

He healed the sick and welcomed sinners.

He shared our pain and died our death,
then rose to new life that we might live,
and all creation be restored.

Remembering your boundless love
revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
we break bread and share the cup,
giving ourselves to you
to live for him in joy and praise.
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
until we feast with him and with all your saints
in your eternal realm of justice and peace.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

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** *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

#314 (vs. 1, 5)

**1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

**5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. (*Refrain*)**

***Blessing and Charge**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Alleluia!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Amen.

***Response**

Be Still and Know That I Am God

#414

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

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.