

September 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rockville Presbyterian Church - www.rockvillepres.org - Rockville, MD



Guest Pastor: Elder Shani McIlwain; **Musician:** Howie Jung; **Lay Leader:** Phil Ruxton

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 the hardcover
GLORY TO GOD *Hymnal*.

GATHERING

Prelude *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak* Dennis L. Jernigan

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

Mark 8:27-38

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”^[a] ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,^[b] will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words^[c] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of

Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

What are You Willing to Lose?

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	<i>In the Bulb There Is a Flower</i>	Natalie Sleeth
Doxology	<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#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

*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 message of
reconciliation God has entrusted to us.

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

We Will Walk with God

John L. Bell



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.