

**September 19, 2021**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Rockville Presbyterian Church - [www.rockvillepres.org](http://www.rockvillepres.org) - Rockville, MD



**Guest Pastor:** Campus Minister Emilee Williams; **Musician:** Howie Jung;  
**Lay Leader:** Harry Redd

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

*Gather Us Here*

Marty Haugen

Welcome

Call to Worship

You who are poor in spirit, why have you come?

**To hear good news.**

You who are brokenhearted, why have you come?

**To heal our hearts.**

You who are captive, why have you come?

**To hear words of freedom.**

You who are prisoners, why have you come?

**To be released from what binds us.**

You who mourn, why have you come?

**To receive comfort.**

You who are weary, why have you come?

**To renew our hope in Jesus Christ.**

You who are weary in hope, low in energy, wrestling in prayer, you are welcomed into God's House this morning as you are. Let us worship God and find hope for our souls this morning.

**Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn

*Let All Things Now Living*

#37

1 Let all things now living  
a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us;  
pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:  
till shadows have vanished,  
all fearfulness banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.

**2 By law God enforces,  
the stars in their courses,  
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing  
our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,  
till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!**

### **Opening Prayer**

Living God, we gather this morning after another week: a week filled with joys, burdens, frustrations, and hopes. Each of us rejoicing, each of us grieving. We come this day, O God, eager to be touched by your Spirit, And to be fed by your grace on this day. To find daily bread to meet our needs for this day, this week. As you meet us today, O God, empower us by your Holy Spirit to be a people rejoicing in hope, certain that you meet us in our joys, burdens, frustrations, and hopes. Believing, O God, that *you are here*, Strengthen our hope on this day, we pray. Through Jesus Christ we pray,  
**Amen.**

### **Call to Confession**

God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. No height or depth can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ. Confident of this, we approach the throne of grace trusting in God's mercy. Let us confess our sins together today.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God,  
We confess that we have not always hated evil or held fast to good.  
**In your mercy, forgive us.**  
**Teach us to strive toward all this is good.**

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not always loved others as you've called us to.

We sin against those we love, neglect those in need, and dishonor those around us.

**In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Teach us to love one another with mutual affection.**

Merciful God,

We confess that too often we take vengeance into our own hands, acting out of anger and hurt.

**In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Teach us to overcome evil with good.**

Merciful God,

We confess that while you call us to rejoice in hope, we often find ourselves lamenting in despair, doubting your presence in our world.

**In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Teach us to be a people of hope.**

Merciful God, you invite each one of us to be agents in your redemptive work on this earth. In so doing, you not only redeem our world, but you redeem each one of us in the process. Through Your Holy Spirit, continue the work you have begun in us.

Through Jesus Christ, offer us a clean state to try again.

*Silence is kept for personal confession*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Rockville Presbyterian, hear the good news! God is not done with you yet – and never will God be done with you. God claims you as his own by his love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Find rest in the unchanging love of God that meets you on this day and forevermore with an abundance of grace.

**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

#### Reading

#### Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; <sup>[b]</sup> do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; <sup>[c]</sup> for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Sermon

#### Rejoicing in Hope: An Invitation to Imagine

#### \*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

*We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*

Hall H. Hopson

#### \*Doxology

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

#606

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, whose giving knows no ending  
We give you thanks and praise for your gifts to us;  
The earth is yours and all that is in it.  
In response to your great gifts, we joyfully dedicate our offering today.

We offer our treasures that you have entrusted to us.  
We offer our skills and time that you have given to us.  
We offer ourselves in service and praise.  
Receive these gifts by your grace.  
Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit  
to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world.

**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**

#### ***Standing on the Promises***

**#838 (vs. 1,4)**

**1 Standing on the promises of Christ my king,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.**

#### ***Refrain:***

**Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,**

resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
standing on the promises of God. (*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**                      *There is a Redeemer*                      **Melody Green**



***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.***