

# September 26, 2021

## Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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



**Guest Pastor:** Elder Shani McIlwain; **Musician:** Howie Jung;  
**Lay Leader:** Aimee Ranaivoarijaona

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**                      **God, You Spin the Whirling Planets**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
    **and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**  
We turn to our Creator in praise and thanksgiving.  
    **We gather for Word and worship**

**\*Gathering Hymn**                      **God Is Here Today**                      **#411**

**God is here today;**  
**as certain as the air I breathe,**  
**as certain as the morning sun that rises,**  
**as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.**

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, we thank you  
for planting in us the seed of your Word.  
By your Holy Spirit,  
help us to receive it with joy,  
and live according to it,  
that we may grow in faith and hope and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
    **Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

God is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, you call us to service and work that cannot be done alone.**  
**Yet we overburden ourselves, and our egos keep us from asking for help.**

**Forgive our false show of strength. Humble us in leadership. Help us to acknowledge that the gifts we have been given in the Body of Christ include hands of help and support. Amen.**

*Silence is kept for personal confession*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

God lifts the weary, lightens the load of those overly burdened, supports and strengthens those who have been knocked down. Claim the forgiveness God so graciously offers. Know the new life Christ has given us.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**Thanks be to God,**

**Amen.**

**Response in Praise**

***Our God is an Awesome God***

**#616**

**Our God is an awesome God  
who reigns from heaven above  
with wisdom, power, and love;  
our God is an awesome God!**

### **THE WORD**

### **A Time with the Children**

### **Prayer for illumination**

May the meditations of our minds and hearts be acceptable to you, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer, as we approach your Word today.

**Amen.**

### **Gospel**

**Mark 9:38-50**

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around

your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup> "For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Pass the Salt**

**\*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**

**Dona Nobis Pacem**

**Anonymous**

**\*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.**

## **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**                      *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*                      **839 (vs. 1, 2)**

**1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of his spirit, washed in his blood.**

### ***Refrain:***

**This is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

***Refrain:***

**Blessing and Charge**

May we leave this house of worship strengthened by the Spirit,  
renewed by God's grace and reminded that the Body of Christ  
surrounds us to help and support those overly burdened.  
May the grace, hope, peace and love of the God the Creator,  
Redeemer and Sustainer be with us now and always.

**Amen.**

**\*Response  
God**

**Be Still and Know That I Am  
#414**

**Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.**

**Postlude**

**Come Bring Your Burdens to God**

**South African**





***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.***