

*Welcome to Roland Park Presbyterian Church.
We're glad you're here!*

September 17, 2023



*Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch.
For the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow.*

~ Unknown



ROLAND PARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME

*Thank you for joining us today. We hope that today's service will be meaningful for you.
You can always visit us at our website for the latest happenings and information.*

<https://www.rolandparkchurch.org/>

*If this is your first time with us, you can email Pastor Mark to introduce yourself and
learn more about the congregation: pastor@rolandparkchurch.org*

*If you would like to connect with our Christian Education Program, please email our
Director of Christian Education, Shayla Redfearn: DCE@rolandparkchurch.org*

*To connect with our choirs, please email our Director of Music, Dr. Phillip Collister-Murray:
pcollister@towson.edu*

*All are welcome in our worship service, including infants and children. We also have a nursery room
where childcare is provided. With the exception of the first Sunday of each month, there is also an
optional "Bridge to Worship" time where children may choose to leave the sanctuary with our Christian
Education team to engage in an age-appropriate worship activity. It will be announced and children
will be invited to come forward. They will return to the sanctuary by the end of the service.*

*If you have any questions or need help finding anything,
please ask anyone wearing a name tag. We will be happy to help you.*

AUDIOFETCH HEARING ASSISTANCE



Stream Real Time Audio to Your Personal Device

1. Download and open the free AudioFetch app from the app store on your device
2. In the sanctuary, connect your device wifi to the network: AudioFetchExpress
3. Connect your device to air pods or earbuds to listen to real time audio streaming

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY
September 17, 2023 10:30 AM

CENTERING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Prelude from BWV 542
Esther Lee, organ

J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In this holy ordinary place,
with these holy ordinary people,
God appears.
In this holy ordinary time,
in this holy ordinary life,
God is doing amazing, unexpected things.
In our holy ordinary hospitality,
in our holy ordinary laughter,
**God catches us unawares,
and provides the impossible.**

***HYMN #301**

Let Us Build a House
Sing verses 1, 4 & 6

TWO OAKS

301

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You appear, O God, and we confess that we do not always look up to see, nor do we spring into action in welcome. Though we pray to get a glimpse of you, we normally don't expect it will actually happen, so we hold back our hospitality, uncertain whether strangers deserve our effort. You appear, O God, and we confess that we do not always engage the conversation, and when we do, we don't know how to believe it so we dismiss what we hear, unwilling to trust those people we don't know how to receive. You appear, O God, and we confess that our assumptions hold us back. We confine you to what we have known, scorning the idea you could do a new thing. Forgive us, Lord God. Make us open enough to welcome the stranger, bold enough to be honest in community, responsive enough to embrace the wonders you are doing, even now. Amen.

Time of Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

GLORIA PATRI (HYMN#581)

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

*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.*

PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

The God of Abraham Praise
 Chancel Choir

LEONI
 arr. D. Giadiniere

The words of the anthem around found in Hymn #49

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

God of promises and surprises, we cannot imagine what you have in mind, we can only trust that you remember us, you take note of your world and its needs and longings, and you will fulfil your promise. As you appeared to Abraham and Sarah bearing a message they could hardly believe, appear to us again this day and make us ready to receive. We ask in your holy name. Amen.

GOD'S STORY

Genesis 18:1-15 & 21:1-7

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Abraham and Sarah's Excellent Adventure

Pastor Mark

***HYMN INSERT**

God Has Made Laughter

LAUGHTER

The Choir will teach the song before we sing it together.

arr. John Bell



1. God has made laugh-ter, laugh-ter for me. God has made

2. Ev-'ry-one who hears will laugh with me. Ev-'ry-one who

(1.) laugh-ter, laugh-ter for me. Oh, God has made

(2.) hears will laugh with me. Oh, ev-'ry-one will

laugh-ter for me. Is an-y-thing im-pos-si-ble for God?

laugh with me. Is an-y-thing im-pos-si-ble for God?

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

During the prayer there will be a time for you to give voice to your own prayers, after which the leader will say, "Lord, in your mercy," or "Lord, we give thanks," and the entire congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

We offer our time, talent and treasure in gratitude to God. Thank you for your gifts in support of our shared ministry. For your convenience, we offer these electronic giving options (fees involved): Use PayPal @RolandParkChurch or Text RPPC to 73256 and follow prompts.

Offertory

Exsultate Deo

Giovanni P. da Palestrina

Chancel Soloists

Sing joyfully to God our strength;

*sing loud unto the God of Jacob!
Take the song, bring forth the timbrel,
the pleasant harp, and the viol.
Blow the trumpet in the new moon,
at the time appointed for our feast day.*

Psalm 81: 1-4

***Doxology (Hymn #606)**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

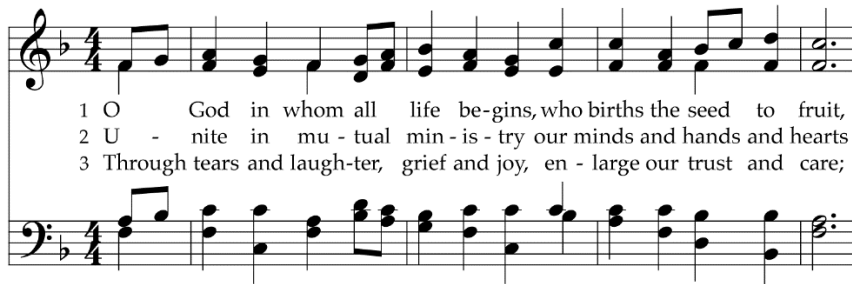
***Prayer of Dedication**

***HYMN #308**

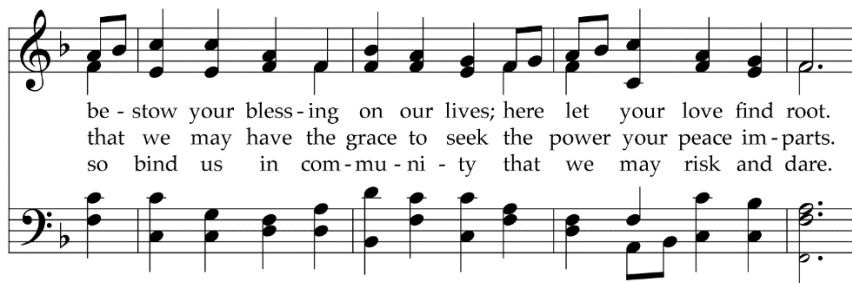
O God in Whom All Life Begins

NOEL

O God in Whom All Life Begins 308



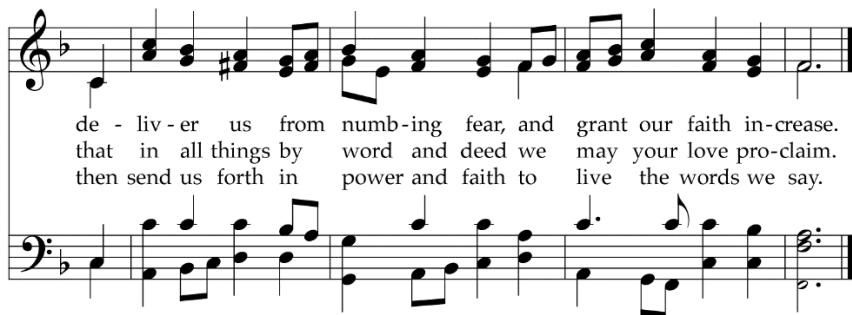
1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless - ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.
so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa - tience, joy, and peace;
So let our var - ied gifts com - bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
Be with us when we gath - er here to wor - ship, sing, and pray;



de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Following today's service you are invited to join us for a time of fellowship.

***SENDING MUSIC**

The Right Hand of God 332

The right hand of God is plant-ing in our land, plant ing seeds of
free - dom hope and love; let's go in - to the world, and
show God's wond-rous love, and be one with the right hand of God.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and an organ accompaniment in the bass clef. The first system includes a fermata over the word 'land'. The second system includes a fermata over the word 'love'. The third system concludes with a double bar line.

TEXT: Patrick Prescod, 1980
MUSIC: Noel Dexter, 1980
Text and Music © 1981 Caribbean Conference of Churches

LA MANO DE DIOS
5.6.8.6.6.10

POSTLUDE

Postlude from BWV 542
Esther Lee, organ

J. S. Bach

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TODAY

*We look to our Lord for strength and healing. We look to each other to see our Lord in action. We remember all those in harm's way, those recovering from natural disasters, refugees and people in conflict, and facing new challenges. Among our church family: **Elaine Cochran, Mary Helen Matava** (sister of Kathy Matava), families readjusting to school year schedules, the community of Roland Park and **David & Danny Guillaume** along with the staff and children of **Kay Papa Nou & Unity House**.*

IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT SUNDAY

September 24, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

Scripture: Genesis 32: 22-31
Message: And in this Corner...

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Today's Liturgy is selected from the PC (USA) Book of Common Worship and <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.

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Pursuing Justice · Practicing Hospitality · Engaging Curious Faith

CHURCH STAFF

Mark W. Hanna, *Pastor*
Phillip Collister-Murray, *Director of Music*
Esther Lee, *Organist*
Shayla Redfearn, *Director of Christian Education*
Jennifer Ronald, *Director of Church Relations*
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BOARD OF ELDERS

Nicole Allen (2025*)
Maggie Arnold (2026*)
Joyce Brown (2026*)
Jean Brune (2024**)
Dan Evans, *Treasurer*
Julie Evans (2024**)
Meghan Friedman (2024*)
Mark W. Hanna, *Moderator*
Destry Jarvis (2025**)
Phoebe Evans Letocha (2024**), *Clerk*
(clerk@rolandparkchurch.org)
Kathy Matava (2025*)
Dave Patron (2025*)
Richard Sigler (2026**)
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Richard Letocha (2024**), *Moderator*
Holden McAleer (2024**)
Janice Moore (2024*)
David Patterson (2026**)
Elayne Provost (2025*)
Christine Tennes (2025*)
Erin Wilk (2024*)

* indicates 1st term, ** 2nd term



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

An inclusive and welcoming
congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (USA) and
the Presbytery of Baltimore.

ROLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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