

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

November 26, 2023



*In the end, though, maybe we must all give up trying to pay back
the people in this world who sustain our lives.
In the end, maybe it's wiser to surrender before the miraculous scope of human generosity
and to just keep saying thank you, forever and sincerely, for as long as we have voices.*

~ Elizabeth Gilbert



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
November 26, 2023 10:30 AM

CENTERING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

See the Birds that Fly the Heavens
Esther Lee, organ

Tae Sook Kang

Words of Welcome

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God's word stands forever,
even when we forget, or lose track, or put it aside.
God's word stands forever,
no matter who is in power or how they lead.
God's word stands forever,
calling us back to faithfulness.

***HYMN #459**

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

459 O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have told us what is good, O God, and sometimes we are trying our best. Other times we wonder why bother? The damage seems to be done, it's too late to change, what difference can our small part make anyway? We confess that we go back and forth between trying to control you and giving up, and both lead us away from your path. Forgive us for the times we have set aside your word, believing it could not serve our desires and so was not valuable. Forgive us for the times we have used your word to manipulate our own ends, believing it could work like magic to get us what we want. Remind us once again that your way is an end in itself, that life with you is a worthy goal regardless of what else may come, that your favor cannot be earned or lost, only responded to. Whatever lies ahead of us, O God, turn our hearts to you, that we may commit our way to the Lord and do what is right, with and for you. 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

For the Beauty of the Earth
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

The words of the anthem are found in Hymn #14.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

When things are overwhelming, we come to seek your guidance, O God. Help us understand, and to see the next step. And when things are going smoothly, all seems well and we think we have it under control, remind us to seek your guidance then, too. Not to rest in our limited view and carry on unaware of consequences we don't yet recognize. Reveal yourself faithful God, for we have come looking, hoping to discover, or re-discover, your will for us today. Amen.

GOD'S STORY

2 Kings 22:1–20, 23:1–3

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord and walked in all the way of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan son of Azaliah son of Meshullam, the secretary, to the house of the Lord, saying, "Go up to the high priest Hilkiah and have him add up the entire sum of the silver that has been brought into the house of the Lord that the keepers of the threshold have collected from the people; let it be given into the hand of the workers who have the

oversight of the house of the Lord; let them give it to the workers who are at the house of the Lord repairing the house, that is, to the carpenters, to the builders, to the masons; and let them use it to buy timber and quarried stone to repair the house. But no accounting shall be asked from them for the silver that is delivered into their hand, for they deal honestly.”

The high priest Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord.” When Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, he read it. Then Shaphan the secretary came to the king and reported to the king, “Your servants have melted down the silver that was found in the house and have delivered it into the hand of the workers who have oversight of the house of the Lord.” Shaphan the secretary informed the king, “The priest Hilkiah has given me a book.” Shaphan then read it aloud to the king.

When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and the king’s servant Asaiah, saying, “Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book to do according to all that is written concerning us.”

So the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophet Huldah the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; she resided in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter, where they consulted her. She declared to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Tell the man who sent you to me: ‘Thus says the Lord: I will indeed bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. Because they have abandoned me and have made offerings to other gods, so that they have provoked me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched.’ But as to the king of Judah who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him: ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, because your heart was penitent and you humbled yourself before the Lord, when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and because you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the Lord. Therefore, I will gather you to your ancestors, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring on this place.’ ” They took the message back to the king.

Then the king directed that all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem should be gathered to him. The king went up to the house of the Lord, and with him went all the people of Judah, all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord, keeping his commandments, his decrees, and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. All the people joined in the covenant.

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

Rediscovering Gratitude

Pastor Mark

***HYMN INSERT**

God is Still Speaking

Marty Haugen

The soloist will indicate when to sing the verse responses.

God is Still Speaking

Marty Haugen

Refrain

God is still speak - ing: bless - ed in - vi - ta - tion.

God is still speak - ing: lis - ten and draw near.

God it still speak ing: see a new cre - a - tion.

God is still speak - ing stand and do not fear.

Cantor Sings Verse Responses
God is still speak - ing.

Cantor Sings
lis - ten and draw near.

Cantor Sings
God is still speak - ing.

Cantor Sings To Refrain.
stand and do not fear.

694 Great God of Every Blessing

1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
 2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
 3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,

you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
 in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
 trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
 In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
 For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:

sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

***SENDING MUSIC #542** God Be with You Till We Meet Again (verse 1)

GOD BE WITH YOU

God be with you till we meet a-gain, lov - ing coun-sels guide up - hold you,
5
with a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first four measures of the melody, and the second staff contains the next four measures, starting with a measure rest marked with a '5'. The lyrics are written below the notes.

POSTLUDE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Esther Lee, organ

Tae Sook Kang

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: **Laura Cochran, 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

December 3, 2023
10:30 AM Worship

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:1-18
Message: Love in Hard Times

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Today's Liturgy is written by the Rev. Teri Petersen of the BibleWorm podcast
<https://www.biblewormpodcast.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*
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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**)
Chris White (2026*)

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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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