

Rock Lake Presbyterian Church
Celebrating 75 years of “Shining Christ’s Light”



The Parable of the Sower

Welcome to Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

Here are a few tips to help you participate:

“*” Invites all who are able to stand.

Bold type invites reading or singing by the congregation.

Italic type invites silent reading by the congregation.

Large print hymnals are available from the usher.

Please return hymnals after the service.

July 13, 2025
Email: rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com
website: www.rlpc.org

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
July 13, 2025

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Arr. David Lasky

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 65

God's creation delights and astonishes.

God's strength established the mountains and silences the roaring seas.

God softens the earth with showers, enriching it and blessing its growth.

The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valley deck themselves with grain.

God, the Creator made it all. Let us worship this marvelous God.

*OPENING HYMN #32

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...so that we will be restored and renewed in faith. **Amen.**

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD #466

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, your word often falls on hardened ground when we close our minds to your truths. Our busy days become thorny tangles and crowd out your place in our lives. We try to do what is right and are frustrated by stony resistance. Forgive our frail and human ways and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness.

*Silence for personal confession. God's people say **Amen***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Brothers and sisters, when we are overwhelmed, God stands by us and forgives our shortcomings. Be at peace, for God restores and strengthens us and waters our souls in their parched and hardened places. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE #588

"Alleluia"

Repeat each phrase after soloist

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Once again we come to hear your word today, O God. Prepare the soil of our hearts that they may be fertile ground to hear and receive your message. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-13

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. **2** Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. **3** And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. **4** And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. **5** Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. **6** But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. **7** Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. **8** Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. **9** If you have ears, hear!" **10** Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" **11** He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. **12** For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **13** The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Planting Seeds"

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis

Responding to God

*HYMN #171

"A Sower Came from Ancient Hills"

Stanza 1 – Soloist

Stanzas 2, 3, 4 – All sing

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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 Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

JOYS & CONCERNS

If you would like to share a Joy or Concern, we would like to hear it. In order to hear it, please raise your hand, and a microphone will be brought to you.

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.

Going Forth to Serve

*HYMN

"Christ, You Walked Among the Grain Fields"

Tune: BEACH SPRING

**Christ, you walked among the grain fields, finding lessons all around:
"Like the harvest that the earth yields, so God's kingdom will abound."
"See! A sower goes out planting: some seed grows a hundredfold."
Here on earth you gave us heaven in the stories that you told.**

**Lord, you shared God's kingdom-bounty, yet you know our pain and need.
Some are poor in lands of plenty, often hurt by others' greed.
Some, possessed by their possessions, look for more to buy and keep;
Others long for simpler blessings: "Let my hungry children eat."**

**Lord, you send us out to labor, to pass on the love you give;
City friend and country neighbor work as one so all may live.
Lending land and tools and vision, sharing costs and planting seed—
Work we love becomes our mission as we serve your world in need.**

**May our harvest celebration build new food security;
As we care for your creation, may we find community.
By your Holy Spirit bless us and may what we grow increase
Till the whole world sees new glimpses of your joyful banquet feast.**

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*BENEDICTION

Sisters and brothers, sow the gospel wherever you go—not judging the soil on which you stand—for God brings forth fruit from unexpected places.

May God, whose forgiveness is boundless,
the Christ, whose resurrection set us free,
and the Spirit which grants us life and peace,
keep your minds and hearts in grateful communion as you seek to serve. **Amen.**

*DEPARTING SONG #591

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” *Refrain*

Greet one another in peace as you depart

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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: David Broyles
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

POTLUCK SUNDAY will be celebrated this Sunday. We invite everyone to the potluck after the worship service. Even if you cannot bring any food to the potluck, we invite you to bring your most important ingredient – YOU!!

Prayer List

*To add/remove/correct names on the prayer list,
please call the church office (768-4141) or email rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com*

Prayers of Joy

Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Ed Bailey	Mary Graham	Hollie McCraw
Jack Binning	Ravi Isaiah	Rick McGuire
Larry Graham	Cheryl Laws	Bill Wagner

- Prayers for all those in Texas who lost loved ones, their homes, and pets in the Fourth of July flood on the Guadalupe River.
- We pray for peace in the world. We pray for our world leaders to do what is right and just. We pray for all the people in the world who are effected by war: The children, the common person, the armies, the leaders. Grant us courage and grace during the coming weeks.
- Praying for peace in the Ukraine/Russia conflict and the hostages and their families.
- Climate change as evidenced by more severe and deadly storms, fires, floods, and prolonged heat waves locally, nationally, and globally. These events are causing large numbers of injuries and deaths of people, disruptions of food supplies, and many animal & plant species to greatly diminish and even go extinct

Prayers for our Military

Brett Baker
Jeff Barker
Brent Bishop
Nigel Jeffries

All who are serving, who have been injured and the families who have lost someone in combat; those who live and serve on the Korean Peninsula and other nations in that region of the world; our troops facing terrorist attacks.

Prayers for those in Senior Residential Centers - Betty Berry, Edgewood Summit; Joel Callison, Pocahontas Center; Jackie Pauley, Valley Center

Prayers for those at Home –Donie Argento, Bonnie Cheely, Anita Wehrmann

Prayer List for Churches: Beckley Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church, White Sulphur Springs; Thunguma Church (THO-GOH'mah); Riamukurwe Parish (RAY-eh-moh-KOH'ROHeh)