

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



“Return  
to your **home**,  
and **declare** how  
much **God** has  
done **for you.**”

Luke 8:39

June 22, 2025  
Email: [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)  
website: [www.rlpc.org](http://www.rlpc.org)

## 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.

# **THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

**June 22, 2025**

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"As the Deer"

Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. Psalm 42*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

When we long for your presence,  
**you are there with us, O source of comfort.**  
When we face dangers and perils,  
**you are there for us, O source of strength.**  
When we need to do justice,  
**you are there within us, O source of courage.**  
So we come with songs and praises,  
**that all the ends of the earth and all the families of the nations**  
**may know of your love.**  
Let us praise God.

\*OPENING HYMN #519

"You Are My Strength When I Am Weak"

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...We long for your peace in our world and in our hearts. **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

**We long for you O God.**  
**We are afraid of what the future may bring.**  
**We separate ourselves from others who are different from us.**  
**When we pray, we don't always feel that you hear us.**  
**Heal the places of our doubt, despair and alienation.**  
**Cure us from hatred and discrimination.**  
**Cast out all that keeps us from you and from one another.**  
(Singing:) **Dear God, Creator good and kind, forgive our foolish ways.**  
**Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives they service find,**  
**in deeper reverence, praise.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm.  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire. Speak though the earthquake, wind,  
and fire, O still, small voice of calm!**

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872. Public Domain

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

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Christ Jesus we are all children of God. We belong to Christ and are heirs with him through faith. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Thanks be to God.**

## ***Listening to the Word***

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us in your still, small voice, O God, so that we may endure the winds, earthquakes and fires of our troubled world. May your Word be a healing balm upon our souls. **Amen**

#### OLD TESTAMENT

1 Kings 19:1-15a

**19** Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." <sup>3</sup> Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. <sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup> He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." <sup>8</sup> He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. <sup>9</sup> At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup> He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." <sup>15</sup> Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

## EPISTLE

Galatians 3:23-29

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup> As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

SUNG RESPONSE #491 (*remain seated*) "You Have Put on Christ"*Stanza 1 – Soloist**Stanza 2 – All sing*

## GOSPEL

Luke 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup> Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," <sup>29</sup> for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup> Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. <sup>32</sup> Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. <sup>34</sup> When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup> Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup> Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

*This is the Word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

"Beyond Discouragement and Death"

The Rev. Dr. Ed Thompson

***Responding to God***

\*HYMN #815

"Give to the Winds thy Fears"

## \*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 #65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

### \*BENEDICTION

Jesus told the one who was healed and whole: "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." We too return to our homes. In all that we do and say, let us declare how much God has done for us. Go in peace in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Spirit. **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:      | Ken Schmidt              |
| Preacher:       | The Rev. Dr. Ed Thompson |
| Music Director: | Marilyn Padon            |
| Organist:       | Pam Ferrell              |

## **POSTCARDS TO OTHER CHURCHES**

On the table in the narthex are postcards to be sent to other West Virginia Presbyterian churches this week. Please take time to add your signature to let them know that we are thinking of them and have them in our prayers.

## ***Prayer List***

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

### **Prayers of Joy**

#### **Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families**

Ed Bailey

Larry Graham

Ravi Isaiah

Jack Binning

Mary Graham

Rick McGuire

Bill Wagner

- 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

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:** Baxter Presbyterian Church, Dunmore; Frankford Presbyterian Church; Rware Parish (Roh-ARE-ray)