

Welcome to the Rectortown United Methodist Church

*No matter where you have been or where you have failed to be –
what you have said or what you have failed to say - what you have
done or what you have failed to do - whom you have loved or
whom you have failed to love - you are welcome here.*

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE - let us quiet our minds, hearts, and spirits as we begin to focus on the presence of God as we become aware of the *Light of Christ* in our midst.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted the Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021, pp.12-13)

Speaking words of love, God creates us, calls to us, and claims us as God's own. Speaking words of love, we too can create, call, and claim God's beauty and glory in the world.

God's strong voice calls us to worship...
calling us to sing and offer praise.

God's creative voice calls us to worship...
calling us to life and light.

God's loving voice calls us to worship...
calling us to love and be loved.

Listen, for God's voice calls to us now.

HYMN Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee UMH 89

OPENING PRAYER (adapted the Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021, p. 13)

Most loving and gracious God of creation and renewal – hover over our gathering this day as you hovered over creation on that first day. Enter into our hearts and our lives as you did at the day of our baptism. Descend on us like a dove as you did on Jesus' day of baptism, so that we may hear again your words of love and adoption. Speak from the heavens into our minds, so that we may

perceive your words of guidance and wisdom. These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

YOUNG DISCIPLE'S MESSAGE

A fresh start...

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(adapted from FOTW Worship Companion, Yr. B, Vol 1, p. 46)

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God. Tear open the veil of heaven and speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh, who is our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-5

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING

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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:4-11

* Glory Be to the Father

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.

TODAY'S MESSAGE

HYMN Spirit Song UMH 347

* **AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH** UMH 882

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

