

Rutherford Congregational Church, UCC
Virtual & In-Person Sunday Gathering
October 17, 2021
Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

251 Union Ave, Rutherford,
NJ 07070 (201) 438-6324

ZOOM ID 896 848 7730

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8968487730>

www.rccucc.com

Rev. Annie Allen, Interim Pastor

Annie.shalom1@gmail.com

973-557-0611

Music included in this morning's service is produced under CCLI #65015.

WELCOME

Welcome to Rutherford Congregational Church. May the wind and fire of the spirit blow into your hearts and into this service today.-Today, we are looking at our fears and God's assurance that it is God's good pleasure to give to us the Kingdom of heaven. None of us get through this life without some suffering, and the story of Job is a classic of pain, suffering and redemption. We are glad you have joined us on this journey today, and we hope you find the peace that Jesus offers to each of us.

Our worship team hopes to provide a worship experience that is EPIC. That is, Experiential, Participatory, Image Rich, and Connective. So, everyone is encourage to participate in whatever way is most comfortable for you. And a reminder, Worship is not a spectator sport, so if outward expression is not your style, we invite you to open your heart wide, pray to Lord and feel God's presence during our time together.

For those of us here in-person the State of NJ has lifted the COVID-19 restrictions for communal worship. Therefore, if you are vaccinated you are not required to wear a mask or social distance from others. However, we encourage everyone to do whatever feels safest and most comfortable to you.

For a copy of today's order of worship or to view a YouTube video recording of this morning's service go to our home webpage www.rccucc.com.

And a reminder to you, that here in this local congregation of the United Church of Christ, *"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*

Now, let us begin service with our musical prelude.

Prelude

Peace

Bethel Music festival, We the Kingdom

(Spoken by Leader & People)

L: We come today bringing our fears and doubts, our troubles and suffering.

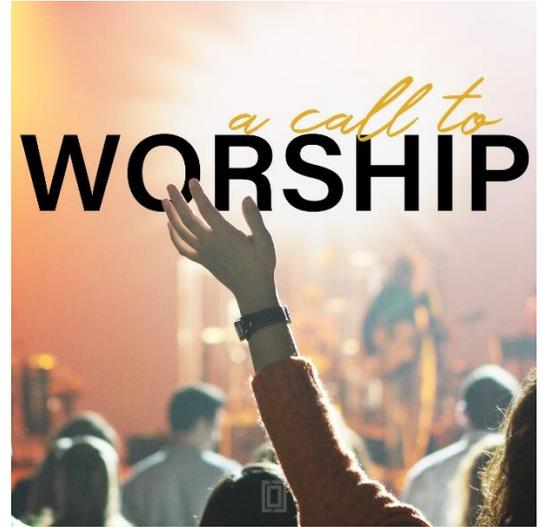
P: God desires that we trust in God's promises and leave our worries to the Lord.

L: As the rains pour from heaven, soaking the earth that it may produce good things....

P: So too, God pours love upon us, that we too, may produce goodness and peace.

L: Come, let us worship and celebrate the mighty love and power of God.

P: Praise be to God who has blessed us in so many ways. AMEN.



INVOCATION / OPENING PRAYER

Lord, our daily lives are full of fears and anxieties. The evening news hurts our heads and our hearts. Yet everywhere we look we see the imprint of your creative love. The wondrous works of nature show your majesty. We gather today to remember your goodness and to celebrate your love and protection, keep us mindful that we are part of your created order; made, loved and protected by you. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN

NCH 282

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Readings of Sacred Scriptures



Job 38:1-7, 34-41 (GNT)

38 Then out of the storm the LORD spoke to Job.

² Who are you to question my wisdom
with your ignorant, empty words?

³ Now stand up straight
and answer the questions I ask you.

⁴ Were you there when I made the world?
If you know so much, tell me about it.

⁵ Who decided how large it would be?
Who stretched the measuring line over it?
Do you know all the answers?

⁶ What holds up the pillars that support the earth?
Who laid the cornerstone of the world?

⁷ In the dawn of that day the stars sang together,
and the heavenly beings^[a] shouted for joy.

³⁴ Can you shout orders to the clouds
and make them drench you with rain?

³⁵ And if you command the lightning to flash,
will it come to you and say, "At your service"?

³⁶ Who tells the ibis^[a] when the Nile will flood,
or who tells the rooster that rain will fall?^[b]

³⁷ Who is wise enough to count the clouds
and tilt them over to pour out the rain,
³⁸ rain that hardens the dust into lumps?

³⁹ Do you find food for lions to eat,
and satisfy hungry young lions

⁴⁰ when they hide in their caves,
or lie in wait in their dens?

⁴¹ Who is it that feeds the ravens
when they wander about hungry,
when their young cry to me for food?



Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

Gospel Lesson - Luke 12:22-34 (GNT)

Trust in God

²² Then Jesus said to the disciples, “And so I tell you not to worry about the food you need to stay alive or about the clothes you need for your body. ²³ Life is much more important than food, and the body much more important than clothes. ²⁴ Look at the crows: they don't plant seeds or gather a harvest; they don't have storage rooms or barns; God feeds them! You are worth so much more than birds! ²⁵ Can any of you live a bit longer^[a] by worrying about it? ²⁶ If you can't manage even such a small thing, why worry about the other things? ²⁷ Look how the wild flowers grow: they don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. ²⁸ It is God who clothes the wild grass—grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have!

²⁹ “So don't be all upset, always concerned about what you will eat and drink. ³⁰ (For the pagans of this world are always concerned about all these things.) Your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ Instead, be concerned with his Kingdom, and he will provide you with these things.

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom. ³³ Sell all your belongings and give the money to the poor. Provide for yourselves purses that don't wear out, and save your riches in heaven, where they will never decrease, because no thief can get to them, and no moth can destroy them. ³⁴ For your heart will always be where your riches are.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to you. Amen

Sermon

Fear or Freedom

Pastor Annie Allen



Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation

Prayer of our Savior (All)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

TIME OF OFFERING



We who have been richly blessed are called to share those blessings with the world. Give freely in the joy of serving your God and neighbor.

For those in the sanctuary, there is a collection plate at the rear of the center aisle. For those on Zoom or watching on YouTube, please take time now to log onto our website www.rccucc.com and click on the donate link to make your offering. Or mail your check to RCC 251 Union Ave, Rutherford, NJ 07070 Attention: Financial Secretary.

OFFERTORY

Bernard Jackson

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (All)

Holy One, receive these gifts which we freely offer. May they be used for the purposes of your church, the relief of the poor, protection of the planet and the spreading of your abundant love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Do, Lord

Spiritual

SENDING FORTH – CLOSING BLESSING

You are loved beyond your imagination! Go from this place knowing that God's blessings have been poured on you so that you may be a blessing to others. No matter your trials and suffering, be at peace and bring the good news of God's love and peace to all whom you meet. AMEN.

POSTLUDE

Less Like Me

Zach Williams

Join us for refreshments and fellowship after service.



Learn – Lead – Support

Pastor's Bible Study, Each Tuesday, 7:00pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9735570611>

Women's Bible Study or Book Club, Carol Marshall carolmarshall1047@gmail.com

Church School, Christian Education and Children's Activities, Alycia Desmond
adammers@hotmail.com

Worship Team, Ellen Dammers ewdammers@netscape.net

Music Ministry, Alycia Desmond adammers@hotmail.com

Administrative Council, Contact Carol Marshall, carolmarshall1047@gmail.com

Future Search Team, Contact Pastor Annie Allen, annie.shalom1@gmail.com

Marketing Team, Contact Meredith Mullane, meredithmullane@gmail.com

Mission Team, Contact Derek Mullane derek.correa.dc@gmail.com

or Carol Anderson careertutor@gmail.com



Message from the Mission Team

A big shout out to everyone who contributed their labor and/or funds to yesterday's dinner (Fri Oct 16) for 150 people through Family Promise in Hackensack.

A longtime activity of RCC, preparing hot meals for the hungry of Bergen County switched during Covid from a sit-down dinner to a take-out event and increased the number served from 100 to 150.

The current Mission Team tweaked the menu slightly, adding a piece of fresh fruit (apples from a NYS farm stand, thank you Suzanne). The volunteers at Family Promise mention every time how much the fresh fruit is appreciated. We switched from labor-intensive home-made brownies to big cookies. Seven people each baked two 12-serving boxes of beef lasagne for 2 1/2 hours and found ingenious ways to heft them from oven to car. Forty-eight pounds of green vegetables were cooked by Ellen and Derek, who do this with professional chef efficiency. Derek also prepares fresh salad for this crowd--his kitchen is like an assembly line. Barb undertakes the tedium of wrapping plastic utensils in paper napkins, and then volunteers to do it again. I order 180 individual salad dressings from Amazon because they come in boxes of 60. Derek buys lasagne, vegetables, salad components, and water bottles at BJ's. Suzanne also buys rolls and cookies in addition to the apples. This time Derek, Barb, Ellen and I all drove the meal components to Family Promise in Hackensack and in ten minutes their volunteers unloaded it all.

I tell this in such detail so that readers who see only one part of the work, or fund it with donations but see none of it, can see the whole process and how it all comes together at the Family Promise loading dock.

Next meal from RCC is Feb 25!

In gratitude for a great team effort!

Carol & Derek

Food Pantry Help

Mission Team consulted with the Rutherford Food Pantry on how we can help in addition to donating groceries (which continues; the municipal building is now open and you can deliver groceries by ringing the doorbell for SOCIAL SERVICES at the side door). The director of social services is eager to have volunteers do non-client facing work, to preserve confidentiality, such as stocking shelves. Please consider volunteering your time. M-F, no remote opportunity known, but I can ask.

Telephone Bank to reach the elderly and shut-ins

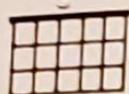
Mission team is working with the Kip Center to provide volunteers for its phone bank to elderly shut-ins, whose isolation increased during the Covid-19 quarantine but is persistent. Making brief calls to the elderly is a wonderful way of sharing God's love and making new friends in the process.

If you will volunteer, or have a friend or family member who wants to serve, contact

Carol Anderson at: careertutor@gmail.com or call or text 201-686-9100

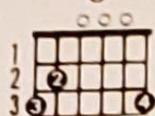
Do, Lord

Pitch

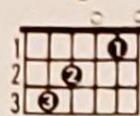


Chords used:

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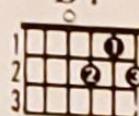
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Em



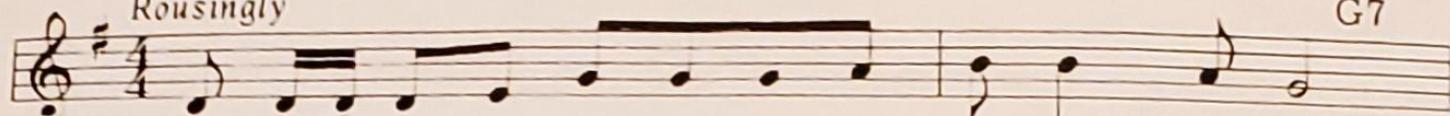
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Spiritual

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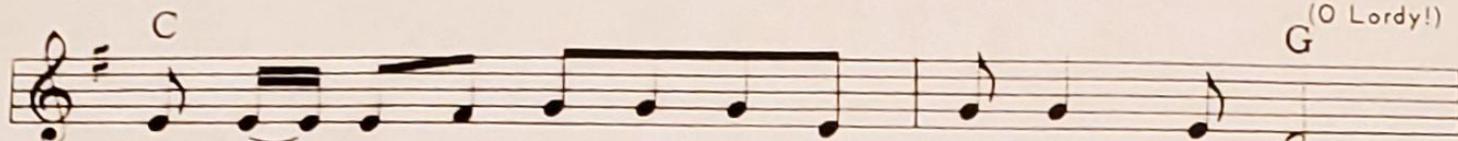
Rousingly



G7

1. I've got a home in glo - ry - land that out - shines the sun,
 2. I took Je - sus as my Sav - ior, you take Him too,

(O Lordy!)

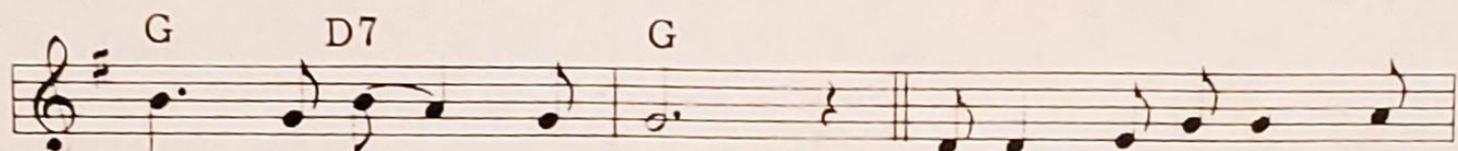


I've got a home in glo - ry - land that out - shines the sun,
 I took Je - sus as my Sav - ior, you take Him too,

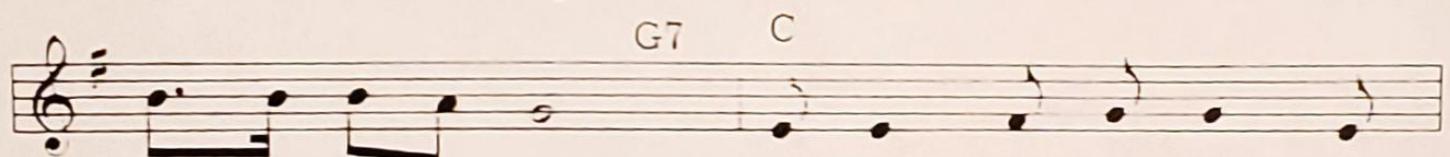
(Hallelujah!)



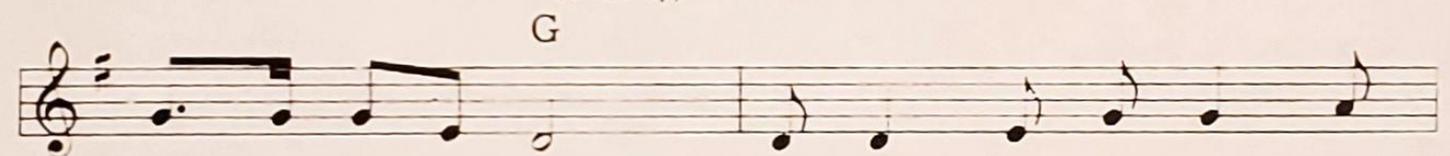
I've got a home in glo - ry - land that out - shines the sun —
 I took Je - sus as my Sav - ior, you take Him too, —



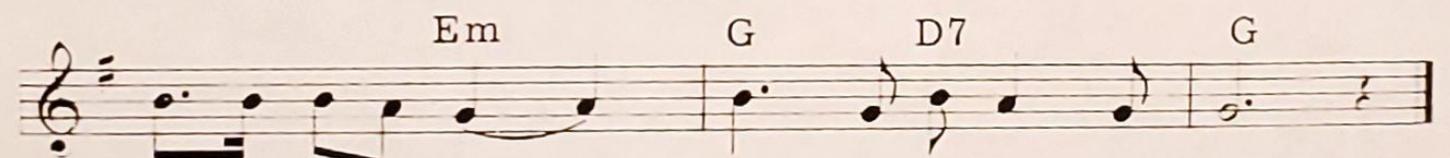
'way be - yond — the blue. Do, Lord O do, Lord, O
 while He's cal - ling you.



do re - mem - ber me, Do, Lord O do, Lord O
 (O Lordy)



do re - mem - ber me, Do, Lord O do, Lord, O
 (Hallelujah)



do re - mem - ber me — 'way be - yond the blue.