

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

10:00 AM

+++++

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsive)

One: Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you and Christ's presence in your midst!

Many: **Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning, and the future will be bright with hope.**

One: Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One who is our wisdom and our strength.

All: **We place ourselves before this God, that we may be touched and cleansed by the power of God's Spirit. Amen.**

* HYMN: 33 (Red Hymnal) *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal Source of life, be with us this day as we seek to open ourselves to your love and your wholeness. Be with us as set aside our everyday worries and concerns and concentrate on your forgiveness and loving-kindness. Create in us anew a sense of meaning and purpose, in the Spirit of the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

("*" invites all who are able to stand. **Bold** indicates read in unison.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please remain in your seat and wave to your neighbors.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of grace, we confess that sometimes we are unsure of our faith. We are weighted down with doubt and guilt, and do not have the courage to trust in you. Fill our hearts with the assurance of your love and renew our courage through your Holy Spirit, that we may serve you with joyful abandon. Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Thus says the Lord, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." Friends, believe the Good News!

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

All: Holy Divine, descend into our hearts and minds so that we may see and hear your Words clearly. Work in us and through us for your glory. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 18:1-15

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 4:16-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 11:1, 8-12

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *Great Expectations*

Rev. Wendy Boer

* HYMN: 139 (Red Hymnal) *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN: 104 (Red Hymnal) *O Worship the King*

CALL TO OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We lift up to you, Holy God, these gifts given with joyful hearts. We ask that you work within the gifts offered here today to double your glory in this world. Allow the session and church leaders to make wise choices as to how to use these gifts to do your work within our church and community. Amen.

* HYMN: 237 (Red Hymnal) *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

THE WORSHIP IS OVER, LET THE SERVICE BEGIN

Dr. Gary de Sesa

Director, Ministry of Music

Dr. Natalie Naylor

Clerk of Session

Robert Gilmore

Treasurer

We welcome to the pulpit today the Rev. Wendy Boer.

We welcome Ya Ling Lin as pianist, filling in for Dr. Gary de Sesa.

Refreshments Host for today is Natalie Naylor.

The Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by the Barbara Wackenhut Foundation.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The Zanchelli Family

Emma Steck

Dawn and John de Sesa

Graziella Girardi

Jeff Lovering

John Nistico

Jay Sikserz

Marco Martufi

Mike Honovich

Gerry Catalanello

Sylvia McAdams

Dennis Prager

Wang Jin Pen

Aldin Monroe

Family of Emily Dyer

Cynthia Randall

Sam Rizzo

Emmie Shoch

Judy Mastrangelo & Family

Regina Maria

Ray Peres

Blake and Megan Stevason

Nico Barley

Chris Foti

Jenn Gallagher

Richie Miranda

Paula Liscio

Stefania Cecchini

All victims, hostages and their families in the Israeli conflict.
We pray for peace in the Middle East.

First Reading

Genesis 18:1-15

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. ³ He said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. ⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.” “Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.” ⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.” ⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. ⁹ “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him. “There, in the tent,” he said. ¹⁰ Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?” ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.” ¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.” But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Second Reading

Romans 4:16-25

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. ¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed

and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” ²³ The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Third Reading

Hebrews 11:1, 8-12

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.