

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.



Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

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A Church for all People

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

(*) Indicates those who are able, please stand.
Please join in speaking and singing the parts in **bold** or *unison*.

Preparation for the Word

*"You are at the beginning of something new. You are learning a new way of being."
-International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Let the Prelude's music open you to God's presence as we begin worship.

Prelude **In Heavenly Love Abiding** NYLAND
Finnish Tune
Arr. Gilbert M. Martin

Welcome

Opening Prayer (unison)

Blessed, holy God of all eternity, you look with favor on those who believe in you, and redeem them.

Source of all creation, you have come among us as the fertile Vine of Love, showing us that every branch that learns to love will bear much fruit.

By your love, we gather this morning in joyful worship, to celebrate the power of Christ returned to life from death, calling us into a faith-filled future.

Be with us as we worship in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

Call to Worship *Responsively*

We gather this day in joy and Beloved Community,
for we are the church of Jesus Christ!

We pray for the Holy Spirit to be among us,
opening our hearts and minds to the worship of God.

Let us worship God.

***Hymn 415**

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Prayer of Confession

When we come before God, we remember and proclaim who God is: merciful, just, holy, and loving. We also must remember who we are, and we are not always faithful to be the people God has called us to be.

Let us confess that we are not always merciful, just, holy, or loving. Let us confess our need for God to forgive us and heal us and create us anew for our lives ahead.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, but don't always realize it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, even though they will leave us empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing deep down that the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! In Christ we are new creations. The old life is gone, praise God! A new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and liberated to love and be at peace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Praise 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination 458

Thy word is a Lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2x)

First Scripture Reading

John 15:1-8

Anthem

King of all ages, throned on high

Paul Isom

King of all ages, throned on high,
Yet savior too of those with faith,
Death at your onslaught died in fear
And grace triumphant rules supreme.

Risen from death, the heav'nly Christ
Receives from God Almighty's hand
Power over all created things:
A gift he could not know on earth.

Then at your coming on the clouds
With shining strength to be our judge,
Cancel the debt we owe you still,
Give back the glory we have lost.

Glory to you, O Christ our Lord,
Exalted far beyond our sights,
Reigning in bliss for evermore,
With Triune God whom we adore.

10th century Latin

trans. Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, alt.

Time with the Children

Rev. Mark Harper

Second Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Sermon

Two Conversions

Rev. Mark Harper

*Hymn 488

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Harper

*Prayers will be read from the Prayer Book and the "Chat box"
then the congregation will be invited to share their prayers.*

Response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

O Holy Trinity of Love,
Holy are you and holy is your name.
May your shalom come and your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us our daily bread, and forgive our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Walk with us through times of trial and save us from evil.
For the Beloved Community, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Offering Invitation

*The offering plate reminds us of the many contributions we all make to
our church and God's realm. Please pass it to your neighbor and offer
thanks for each other's gifts.*

Offertory

Musette

Michel-Richard Delalande

***Doxology 609**

LASS UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all people here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost;
Alleluia! Alleulia! Alleulia! Alleulia!*

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Gracious God, please accept these gifts and use them for the coming of your realm of Shalom all over this earth. In gratitude for all we have and for your love for us, we pray with thanksgiving. Amen.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Announcements of the Community's Life

***Sending Hymn 838**

Standing on the Promises

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

St. Anne

Healey Willan

Community worship ends; discipleship and service begin anew.

Participants in this morning's service

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor

Ruth Noel, Liturgist

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir

Dr. James Bingham, organist

Jay Clouse, Zoom Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule for upcoming events

** Zoom events

Mon. Apr. 29, 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Tue. Apr. 30, 12.00 p.m. Virtual coffee hour**

Wed. May 1, 8:15 p.m. Presbyterians for Police Transformation**

Thur. May 2, 6.30 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Sun. May 5, 11: 00 a.m. Worship Service (*hybrid*)

+Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here. We are pleased you are with us today.

+Please continually pray for peace - - in our homes, in our lives,
neighborhoods, in the nation and the world.

+Thanks and appreciation to Carol Christensen and Hope Connor
for providing Coffee Hour refreshments today.

+Thank you for your continued support of TPPC.

As a reminder, there are several ways to give to TPPC.

Information on giving, including giving on line, can be found
at <https://www.takomaparkpc.org/give>.

Checks may be mailed to Takoma Park Presbyterian Church,
310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. If you have questions,
please contact **finance@takomaparkpc.org**.

+Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) is a movement of the
Ecumenical Christian community, and its recognized partners
and allies. EAD is grounded in biblical witness and our shared
traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

EAD "summit" is **May 17-19.**

About our Church

+ **We welcome visitors to worship with us.** We pray that you will be blessed by your time with us this day. The gospel that we share and serve is a message of life and rebirth, love and reconciliation, hope and joy, peace and justice, and concern for the integrity of creation. If you are looking for a church home for your spiritual journey and service to God, we invite you to be our guest as often as possible as you discern if this is the faith community to which God is calling you.

+ **A Hearing System** is available for those who need it. See one of the greeters to get earphones.

+ **TPPC** welcomes **families** with infants and children to our worship services. The following are options for families:

A **Nursery** is available for **infants through 4** years old, 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Teddy Bear Room on the lower level of the education building. (Our greeters/ushers will direct you there.)

Your infant or small child is welcome to stay with you in worship. If the child becomes uncomfortable and needs care during the service, feel free to leave the sanctuary. There is a changing table and rocking chair in the room next to the exit door on the left of the sanctuary.

Children are invited to come forward for the “**Time with Children**” and then pre-school and elementary age children are invited upstairs in the education building for Bible stories and related activities.

Books to share with your children are in the back of the sanctuary. Please do not leave your child unsupervised at the back of the sanctuary.

+**In our worship**, we seek to use **inclusive language** in hymns, prayers and Scripture lessons. If you find gender specific words in

hymns or other text that cause you difficulty, please feel free to make appropriate substitutions.