

# TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*December 3, 2023*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
*Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.*

## AN ADVENT CHORAL SERVICE



Bernardino Zenale, *Madonna Adoring the Child with Musical Angels*, c. 1500–1510, oil on panel, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, 71.PB.60

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*(\*) Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

Facemasks are currently optional. If you have a vulnerable health condition or just prefer to wear a mask, please feel free to do so.

*Health and Safety Committee.*

## Preparation for the Word

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

*"Hope is believing in spite of the evidence, and then watching the evidence change."*

*-Jim Wallis paraphrasing Hebrews 11:1*

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Prelude Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts** Camile Saint-Saëns (1858)  
**from, *Oratorio de Noël***

### Welcome

**Opening Prayer (Unison)**

Howard Thurman

**"May the sounds of Advent stir a longing in your people, O God. Come again to set us free from the dullness of routine and the poverty of our imaginations. Break the patterns which bind us to small commitments and to the stale answers we have given to questions of no importance. Let the Advent trumpet blow, let the walls of our defenses crumble, and make a place in our lives for the freshness of your love, well-lived in the Spirit, and still given to all who know their need and dare receive it. Amen."**

## **Call to Worship: Lighting the Candle of Hope -**

Gerhard du Plessis, Micaeli Rourke du Plessis and Zelda du Plessis

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call. (Sung by cantor)*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and set lights in the sky - sun and moon and stars.

**By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys. By these stars, they knew God was with them.**

Today we light one candle to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens. We name this candle Hope.

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of hope. Even when better days seem very far away and the weight of the world seems to crush your promises, we set our face steadily towards the light.

**Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week, help us to become the signs of hope that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's hope. Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn 87            Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

### **Prayer of Confession**

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

**Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgment and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace and hope during our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of nonviolent love. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

*Silent Prayer*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

## Hymn of Praise 583

## Glory to God (x2)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

## \*Passing the Peace

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

## Prayer of Illumination 458

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

## Time with Children

Pastor Mark Harper

## The Word in Music

## GLORIA

Antonio Vivaldi, c.1715

### CHORUS

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Glory to God in the highest.*

### CHORUS

Et in terra pax  
hominibus bonae voluntatis.

*And on earth peace  
to men of good will.*

### DUET - Soprano I and II

Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.

*We praise you. We bless you.  
We adore you. We glorify you.*

### CHORUS

Gratias agimus tibi.

*We give thanks to you.*

### CHORUS

Propter magnum gloriam tuam.

*Because of your great glory.*

### ARIA - Soprano

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.

*Lord God, King of Heaven,  
God the Father Almighty.*

### CHORUS

Domine Fili unigenite,  
Jesu Christe.

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son*

**ARIA and CHORUS - alto**

Domine Deus, Agnus Dei  
Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

*Lord God, Lamb of God  
Son of the Father.  
Who takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.

*Who takes away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.*

**ARIA - alto**

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.

*who sits at the righthand of the Father,  
have mercy upon us.*

**CHORUS**

Quoniam tu solus sanctus.  
Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.

*For you alone are holy.  
You alone are the Lord.  
You alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ.*

**CHORUS**

Cum Sancto Spiritus,  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*With the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Words: Early Christian Hymn forming the second part  
of the Ordinary of the Roman Catholic Mass  
Music: Antonio Vivaldi (1678 - 1741)

**A Reading from Scripture**

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

**ANTHEM:**

**O Jesus Sweet**

James T. Bingham

O Jesus Sweet, O Jesus mild,  
You came to us a tiny, little child;  
From heav'n above to earth below,  
Because your Father willed it so,  
O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild.

O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild  
With sin the whole world was beguiled,  
But through the power of your great love,  
You turned our hearts to heav'n above:  
O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild.

O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild,  
You bring love's beauty undefiled  
To light our hearts with its pure fire,  
That we may share your heart's desire:  
O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild.

O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild,  
We praise our Savior, Holy Child:  
O help us learn, as ne'er before  
To serve and love you evermore:  
O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild.

Words: Valentin Thilo (1607-1662)

English: James T. Bingham

Music: J.T. Bingham, 1999

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**Prayers of the People**

**Rev. Mark Harper**

**Prayer 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.

### **Offering Invitation**

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

## Offertory

**Dormi Jesu!** from,

**J. T Bingham**  
*Procession and Carols*

Dormi Jesu! mater ridet.  
Quaetam dulcem somnum videt.  
Dormi Jesu, blandule!

*Sleep Jesus! mother smiles.*  
*Who sees such a sweet sleep.*  
*Sleep Jesus, gently!*

Si non dormis, mater plorat;  
Inter fila cantans orat,  
Blande, veni somnule!

*If you sleep not, mother weeps;*  
*While she spins, singing she prays,*  
*Come, gentle slumber!*

Words: Latin words, probably of Flemish origin  
Music: James T. Bingham (2005)

## Doxology 607

Praise God from Whom all Blessing flow  
Praise Christ all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore ;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

## Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives.

Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfilment of Christ's ministry. And then as Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to build your Beloved Community. Amen.

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

### Announcements of the Community's Life

**\*Sending Hymn 82    Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude: Arrival of Queen of Sheba    George Frideric Handel**  
from, *Solomon* (1685 -1759)

*(Please remain seated or leave quietly while the postlude is being played)*

*Community worship ends; discipleship and service begin anew.*

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*Participants in this morning's service*

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor

Gerhard du Plessis, Micaeli Rourke du Plessis and

Zelda Du Plessis, Advent Candle Lighters

Audrey Moïse Béloni, soprano

Joanne Moïse, soprano

Prethi John, mezzo-soprano

Ekaterina Tomenko, contralto

Preston Hawes, violin, instrumental leader

Sofya Puyul, violin

Devon Nicol, violin

Gabriella Apola, violin

Michelle Walker, viola

Alexander Marte, viola

Sofiia Yatsyshyna, cello

David Zelinsky, cello

Michael Rittling, bass

Miriam Friedman, oboe

Daniel Rodriguez, oboe

Abner Marquez, trumpet

Mark Di Pinto, piano

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir and Friends

James Bingham, conductor

Jay Clouse, Zoom Technician

Erol Kalayoglu, Zoom Technician



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Schedule for upcoming events

### \*\* Zoom events

Monday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Tuesday, December 5, 12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour**
Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting**
Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.	Advent Service **
Wednesday, December 6, 8:00 p.m.	C&CE Ministry Meeting**
Wednesday, December 6, 8:15 p.m.	Presbyterians for Police Transformation**
Thursday, December 7, 6:30 p.m.	Deacon's Meeting**
Sunday, December 10, 11:00 a.m.	Worship Service **

+Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, **you are welcome to our worship.** We are pleased you are with us today.

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

### **+Service Musical Notes**

Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*. This much-loved choral work was probably written around 1715, and it remained relatively unknown until its revival in 1939 when it was presented in an Italian performance by Alfred Casella. Since then, it has enjoyed a well-founded popularity that now places it second only to Handel's *Messiah* as a special Christmas choral event. Written for soprano and contralto soloists, choir and orchestra, it subdivides the traditional words of the *Gloria* from the Roman Catholic Mass into twelve short movements, bringing a Baroque freshness and perspective to their meaning.

This work is being supplemented by two Christmas carols written by James Bingham: *O Jesus Sweet* and *Dormi Jesu*, the second of which is taken from the larger work, *Procession and Carols*.

All works have orchestral accompaniment.

**+2024 Stewardship Campaign:** We're continuing to make great progress toward fulfilling our 2024 Stewardship goals! Thanks to the 55 people/families who have already pledged, *we are almost 2/3 of the way to our goal of 90 pledges! And the pledge total is \$271,578 -- almost 85% of our goal of \$325,000* to support the Church operations and missions in 2024. If we receive 35 more pledges, we are sure to fully meet our goals for participation and dollars.

**Every pledge matters** -- if you haven't pledged yet, please do so this week -- and help us bring in God's abundant harvest! Pledging is easy - fill out one of the pledge cards in the pews or *pledge online at the [TPPC pledge webpage https://www.takomaparkpc.org/tppconlinepledge](https://www.takomaparkpc.org/tppconlinepledge)*. Your generous support will help keep our faith community alive and well.

**+Advent Vespers Service** will take place in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings, December 6, 13, and 20, at 7:00 p.m.

The services will be contemplative in nature. The songs will be from the Advent part of our hymnal, done in the Taize style with flute, voice, piano and congregational singing.

+There will be a **Christmas Eve Family Candle-Light Service**, December 24, at 5:00 p.m. All are invited.

+We need **volunteers to host coffee hour!** Hosting is easy and fun. Help support this important time of fellowship and sharing by signing up to host coffee hour - pick your Sunday and signup using this signup genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BAFAD23A0FDC61-tppc>:

Questions contact [rogergriffis61@gmail.com](mailto:rogergriffis61@gmail.com) or 301-980-4694 Thank you!

**+Thank you for your continued support of TPPC.**

As a reminder, there are several ways to give to TPPC. Information on giving, including giving online, 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](mailto:finance@takomaparkpc.org).

**+Christmas Poinsettia:** The Ministry of Worship is providing an opportunity for us to purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The plants may be dedicated in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

The cost for each poinsettia plant is \$20. Please note, **December 17 is the last day to order Christmas Poinsettias.**

If you are allergic to poinsettia, and cannot have it in your home we are providing an opportunity for you to make a contribution to the Organ Fund instead of purchasing the plant.

Please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate.

There is also an online form -

<https://www.takomaparkpc.org/tppcpoinsettia2023>

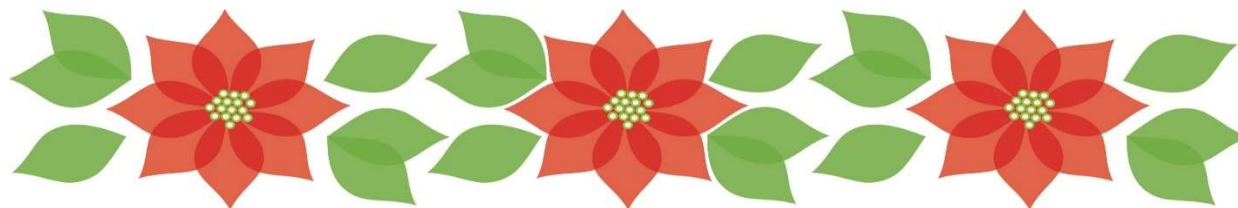
Thank you for your support.

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I wish to dedicate ..... Christmas Poinsettias.

In Memory of .....

In honor of .....

Enclosed is \$..... Signed .....



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Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor  
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