

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 10, 2023

Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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.*

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.

On Communion Sundays, we ask that all prayer concerns be written in the prayer book (instead of passing the microphone).

Preparation for the Word

“O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice: Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.”

-from Litany for Advent O Antiphons, Book of Common Worship

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

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

Prelude Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

French Plain Song
Arr. Albin C. Whitworth

Welcome

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

Call to Worship: Lighting the Candle of Peace:

Julie Meho and Brian Forbin

*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 a second candle to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens. We name this candle Peace. We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of peace. Even when violence and fear are raging, and peace seems like a pipedream, we set our face steadily towards the light.

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week, help us to become the signs of peace 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 peace. Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Prayer of Confession

God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this second Sunday of Advent let us approach God in humility and faith.

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

Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent.

We have failed to share as we should.

We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed.

We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation.

Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

***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**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
(Worshippers on Zoom may unmute themselves and share the peace.)

WE PROCLAIM 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

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Anthem

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

French Melody
Arr. Lloyd Lars

Time with the Children

Pastor Mark Harper

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1:1-8

Reflection on the Word

Sermon

Whose Gospel is it Anyway?

Rev. Mark Harper

***Hymn *88 (v.1, 6, 7) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Rev. Carolyn Tilley

Prayers will be read from the Prayer Book and the "Chat Box"

Prayer Response: **Eternal God,** 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

Lo, Now a Rose

ES IST EIN ROSE

Arr. Deborah Govenor

***Doxology 607**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

***Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

Gracious God, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity. May our offerings bring hope and peace to those most in need of Christ's mission and ministry. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ welcomes us to receive this meal

Hymn 701 (2x)

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

The Invitation

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from East and West, and from North and South, and sit
at table in the reign of God.

How good and pleasant it is when people dwell in unity.

O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Happy are all who find refuge in God.

This is the Lord's Table. It is not Takoma Park's table.
It is the Lord's Table, so come - for all is made ready.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .

Yes, all thanks and praise be to you, most holy God,
giver of all life.

You made us for companionship and shaped us for love;

You gave us your good earth and taught us to care;

You established your law that we might learn justice and give you honor
with our lives; we give thanks to you.

Creating God, breath of all being;

The earth is yours and all that is in it,

And all who dwell therein.

And so we sing with all the Saints on earth and all the saints in heaven:

Sung Sanctus 552

LAND OF REST

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

The Acclamation

Let us praise the Lord.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
In Christ shall all be made alive. Blessing and honor and glory
and power be to our God forever and ever. Amen**

Prayer After Communion (unison)

Gracious and loving God, you have filled us with good things! Grant us now the imagination to extend and expand this table of welcome that all people who hunger and thirst for justice might be fed. Amen.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Announcements of the Community's Life

***Sending Hymn 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Antioch

Mary Beth Bennett

Community worship ends; discipleship and service begin anew.

Participants in this morning's service

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor
Rev. Carolyn Tilley, Communion Officiant
Barbara Wootton, Liturgist
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir
Dr. James Bingham, organ
Jay Clouse, Zoom Technician
Erol Kalayoglu, Zoom Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule for upcoming events

**** Zoom events**

Monday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Tuesday, December 12, 12:00 p.m.	Virtual coffee hour**
Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.	Session meeting**
Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.	Advent Vesper Service (<i>hybrid</i>)
Wednesday, December 13, 8:15 p.m.	Presbyterians for Police Transformation**
Thursday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.	Committed Racial Mindfulness Meeting**
Sunday, December. 17, 11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (<i>hybrid</i>)
Sunday, December. 17, after worship	Congregational Meeting

+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, neighborhoods, the nation and the world.

+Advent Vespers Service will take place in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings, **December 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.

*Thursday December 14, **Committed Racial Mindfulness** will be meeting at 8:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be sent out this week.

+On Sunday December 17, there will be a **Congregational Meeting**, immediately after worship, to elect officers for the coming year. All are invited to join in the process.

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

+2024 Stewardship Campaign: Church family, many thanks for your pledges! We are at **66%** (59 pledges out of 90) and **85%** (\$275,798 out of \$325,000) of our goals.

Every pledge matters – so if you have not yet pledged, please do so! There are pledge cards in the pews, or you may pledge online, at the [TPPC pledge webpage https://www.takomaparkpc.org/tppconlinepledge](https://www.takomaparkpc.org/tppconlinepledge).

With your participation we will achieve our goal. Thank you.

+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 or 301-980-4694 Thank you!

+Christmas Joy Offering – Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present and future – who have pointed us to God.

This is one of four annual special offerings which helps us in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, by bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take action on shared concerns. Please give generously. 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.

+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 Poinsettia Order form and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

Poinsettia Order

I wish to dedicate Christmas Poinsettias.

In Memory of

In honor of

Enclosed is \$..... Signed

