

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 17, 2023

Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.



3RD 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.

Preparation for the Word

Virgin

It seems everyone wants at least 3-5 years experience.

Except God, that is.

[God] looks for the one willing to try something new.

Sam Gutierrez

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

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

Prelude Fantasia on: Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

Arr. James T Bingham

Welcome

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Gracious God, for generations your Word has brought love, light, and joy to your people. Speak to us now; we pray that we may hear, and in hearing, may we be transformed into those who worship and serve you. Amen.

Call to Worship: Lighting the Candle of Joy - - - Family Roth
Marty, Katie and Ava

*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 third candle to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

We name this candle **Joy**.

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of Joy. Even when despair is all around us and apathy seems the order of the day, we set our face steadily towards the light.

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

***Opening Hymn 137 Jesus Came Down**

Jesus came down that we may have love;
Jesus came down that we may have love;
Jesus came down that we may have love;
Hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er- more.

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
... that we may have peace
... that we may have joy

Prayer of Confession

When we come to worship God, we must first remember that we often are people who turn away from God. Relying on God's abundant grace, let us call upon God to guide us back to our true selves and follow in the way of Christ.

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

Gracious God, long, long ago you sent Jesus of Nazareth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same as the church, the Body of Christ on earth. Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. We have remained silent instead of speaking your truth to power. Help us to refocus our imaginations and actions so that we might bear witness to your love. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to follow in the joyful, just way of Jesus. 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

Isaiah 61:1-4

Anthem E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Time with the Children

Pastor Mark Harper

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

Reflection on the Word

Sermon

Magnifying Jesus

Rev. Mark Harper

***Hymn 99 (vs.1-3) My Soul Gives Glory to My God**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Rev. John Seaman

Prayers will be read from the Prayer Book, invited from the congregation. and the Zoom "Chat Box"

Prayer Response: God of Light, Brighten the Darkness

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.

The Offertory

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Claude Goudimel (1514 -1572)

Arr. Howard Helvey

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness, turning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befit His holy reign.
or the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

*Johann G, Olearius (1611 - 1684)
Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827 - 1878), alt*

***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)**

Thank you, God, for all that we have and all that we are.

We take these gifts given today and dedicate them ever and only to you,
trusting that you will use them to bring about justice, peace, and joy.
Amen.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Announcements of the Community's Life

***Sending Hymn 105 People Look East**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude It Came Upon a Midnight Clear/Liebesträume

Richard S. Willis, Franz Liszt,
Arr. Tom Fettke

Community worship ends; discipleship and service begin anew.

Participants in this morning's service

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor
Kurt Lawson, 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 18, 7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Tuesday, December 19, 12:00 p.m.	Virtual coffee hour**
Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.	Advent Vesper Service (<i>hybrid</i>)
Wednesday, December 20, 8:15 p.m.	Presbyterians for Police Transformation**
Sunday, December 24, 11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (<i>hybrid</i>)
Sunday, December 24, 5:p.m.	Christmas Eve Candle Lighting 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, neighborhoods, the nation and the world.

+Congregational Meeting: Today, immediately after worship, to elect officers for the coming year. All are invited.

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

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

+Calling all Carolers!

Join us for Christmas caroling today. We will meet at 2:30 pm, at Victory Tower (7051 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park) to help spread cheer with our Victory Tower friends.

At 3:30 pm, we will gather at the Takoma Park Gazebo for more caroling fun. We'll provide song books! All are welcome -

Hark the Herald Angels Sing!

+ December 24, at 5:00 p.m., there will be our **Christmas Eve Family Candle-Light Service.** All are invited. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

+2024 Stewardship Campaign: Church family, thanks for continuing to pledge to our church! We are getting closer to our goals, at 62 pledges out of 90 (69%) and \$286,198 out of \$325,000 (88%). **Every pledge matters** - so if you haven't pledged yet, please do! You can 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>. Thanks!

+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 help 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 act 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, **today is the 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 Orders

I wish to dedicateChristmas Poinsettias.

In Memory of

In honor of

Enclosed is \$..... Signed

