

# TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*March 10, 2024*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.*



Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor  
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church  
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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.*

**+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

*"Why did it have to be snakes?"*

*--Indiana Jones*

*"Mature love casts out fear."*

*1 John 4:18 (Cotton Patch Version)*

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

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

**Prelude**            **Where'er You Walk**            George Frideric Handel

### Welcome

### Opening Prayer (unison)

O wonderful fountain of blooming life, we gather to celebrate the good news that we are not alone. We gather as a community, sprouting leaves of hope, a wiry muscle of justice, a cell of pollen in the body of Christ. We come to remember what it means to be faithful. We come to remember how it is to labor against great odds. We come to remember that the future depends not on us, but on you. Be with us, God of all creation, so we can worship you in spirit and in truth. We have come to claim our place among your people, the people of the risen Christ. Amen.

**Call to Worship**                      *Responsively*                      from Psalm 107

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind.

**And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of the Lord's deeds with songs of joy.**

**\*Hymn 645      Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above**

**Prayer of Confession**

The mercies of God are new every morning. And so we can stand before God as we are, bent, broken, and seeking new life, while trusting in God's healing goodness and grace.

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

**Holy God, giver of all that is good, everything we have is a gift from you: the breath of life, the food we eat, the community that supports us. Why then do we live in fear of not having enough? Why do we worry that in your love for the whole world you might forget about us? Teach us again to put all our trust in your promises that never fail.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Through the grace of God, we are set free from the forces that center us in ourselves and keep us from loving God and neighbor with our whole hearts. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are born anew to follow in the liberating way of Jesus.

**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**

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

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

**Anthem**

**My Wordless Prayer**

**Craig Courtney**

My words lie still and lifeless as dust upon the sand,  
I can no longer voice one request or one demand.  
My cup of tears is empty, I can no longer cry.  
My lips have fallen silent, my prayer is but a sigh.

Refrain:

Spirit come and rest Your ear upon my heart,  
Come and hear my wordless prayer,  
My silent plea and take them far away from me,  
Take them from this heart of mine to the Savior's heart divine,  
Speak in tones unknown to us that God may hear and understand.

My voice is weak from calling to You both night and day.  
How long will you be silent? Why do You turn away?

Refrain:

*(Pamela Martin)*

**Time with the Children**

**Rev. Mark Harper**

**Second Scripture Reading**

**John 3:14-21**

**Sermon**

**Exposed**

**Rev. Mark Harper**

**\*Hymn 215      What Wondrous Love Is This**

## **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Ordination and Installation of Church Officers**

*Ordaining and Installing Karen Lange to the Office of Elder*

*Installing Madeline Lindvall to the Office of Deacon*

There are different gifts,

**But it is the same spirit who gives them.**

There are different ways of serving God,

**But it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through different people in different ways,

**But it is the same God who achieves God's purpose  
through them all.**

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

**To use it for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,

**And individually members of Christ.**

Though we have different gifts, together we are a ministry of reconciliation led by the risen Christ. We work and pray to make Christ's church useful in the world, and we call men and women of faith, so that, in the end, every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of our Sovereign God.

Within our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular work as ministers of word and sacrament, ruling elders, or deacons. In ordination we recognize these special ministries, remembering that our Lord Jesus said: Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of all and if they want to be first among you, they must be the servant of all people!

**Just as the Incarnate Word came not to be served, but to serve,  
and to give His life to set others free.**

## **Presentation of Candidates:**

**Elder to be ordained and installed:** Karen Lange

**Deacon to be installed:** Madeline Lindvall

### **Constitutional Questions for Ordination and Installation**

Do we, the members of Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, accept these sisters in faith, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

**We do.**

### **Laying on of Hands and Prayer**

Almighty God, in every age you have chosen servants to speak your word and lead your loyal people. We thank you for these people whom you have called to serve you. Give them special gifts to do their special work; and fill them with the Holy Spirit, so they may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and be faithful disciples as long as they shall live.

### **Candidates:**

*God, our Creator; You have chosen me.  
Now give me strength, wisdom, and love  
to work for the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Congregation:**

**God of Grace, who called us to a common ministry as Ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation: give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us: that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world: through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen.**

### **Declaration and Welcome**

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Carolyn Tilley

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

**Response:** God of all, **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.

## Mission Partner Spotlight

Focus on the Namulaba Clinic in Uganda

## 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**

**Largo**

G. F. Handel

**\*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, through your overflowing love, we have known blessing  
upon blessing. May what we share today through our offerings bring hope  
and joy to our neighbors and world.

We pray in your name. Amen.

# WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

## Announcements of the Community's Life

\*Sending Hymn 729 (vs. 1,2, 4) Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

\*Benediction

\*Postlude Sing the Glad Song Franklin Ritter

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

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### *Participants in this morning's service*

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor  
Carol Christensen, Liturgist  
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir  
Dr. James Bingham, organist  
Jay Clouse, Zoom Technician

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Schedule for upcoming events

#### \*\* Zoom events

Monday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Tuesday, March 12, 12.00 p.m.	Virtual coffee hour**
Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting ( <i>hybrid</i> )
Wednesday, March 13, 7.00 p.m.	Lenten Worship Service
Wednesday, March 13, 8:15 p.m.	Presbyterians for Police Transformation**
Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.	CRM Leadership Workshop
Sunday, March 17, 9:30 am	Adult Sunday School on Reparations ( <i>hybrid</i> )
Sunday, March 17, 11:00 a.m.	Worship Service ( <i>hybrid</i> )



+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.

**+A New Adult Sunday School Class is Coming!**

Please join us for a book study of Reparations: A Christian Call to Repentance and Repair by Duke Kwon and Gregory Thompson.

This hybrid class will meet in the church parlor and through Zoom on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. All classes will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will be facilitated by Mary Pat Brennan and John Peacock.

**Here are some sample reviews:**

*"What hope do we have of racial reconciliation unless we right the wrongs of the past? Kwon and Thompson have argued convincingly that reparations is a necessary part of the healing of the churches and our nation, and that people of faith should be leading the way. Read this book and learn how to be a bridge builder for reparations."* - **Latasha Morrison**, founder of Be the Bridge and NY Times Best-selling author -

*"In love, the authors direct the White American church to tell the truth to itself and its complicity in and endorsement of racism at the expense of their Black brothers and sisters in Christ. Wrestle with this book alone or in small groups, but don't call it quits. Let the book's inevitable discomfort lead to growth, understanding, and the beauty of repentance."* - **Christina Edmondson**, cohost of the *Truth's Table* podcast.

Below is a link to a week-by-week outline of the class:

<https://tinyurl.com/SundaySchoolOnReparations>

+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!

## +Choral Post-Easter Service

The Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir and Friends will present a service of celebration on Sunday, April 14, at 11:00 a.m. This service will feature sacred music from largely British composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The *Five Mystical Songs* of Ralph Vaughan William, the most substantial musical part of the service will feature baritone, Trevor Scheunemann, who enjoys an international operatic career, including performances in leading roles with such houses as: The Metropolitan Opera, Washington National Opera, Opera de Monte Carlo, and San Francisco Opera among many others. Mr. Scheunemann is a graduate of Washington Adventist University, Takoma Park, and a distinguished alumnus of the world-renowned Domingo-Cafritz Artist Program at Washington National Opera.

The *Five Mystical Songs* were written for baritone solo, choir and orchestra; however, this performance will feature the composer's orchestral reduced for string quintet and piano. The words are taken from four poems ("Easter" divided into two parts) by George Herbert (1593 - 1633), a metaphysical Welsh poet, orator, and priest of the Church of England; and were selected by Vaughan Williams from the poet's 1633 collection, *The Temple: Sacred Poems*.

Other musical presentations will include *O Clap Your Hands*, by Ralph Vaughan Williams and *Gloria in excelsis "Coronation"* by Charles Villiers Stanford, composed for the coronation of George V in Westminster Abbey, on June 22, 1911. Both anthems will be accompanied by a brass septet.

The service promises to be a joyful post-Easter musical celebration, reflecting the joy of the resurrection and by it, the promise of eternal salvation. Please plan on attending and bring friends, so that this joyful festivity can infuse this season of renewal.

+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).

+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**.

## STAFF

2024

<b>Rev. Mark Harper</b>	<i>Pastor – markharper@takomaparkpc.org</i>
<b>Dr. James Bingham</b>	<i>Director of Music</i>
<b>Joanna Tipton</b>	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
<b>Gary Cardillo</b>	<i>Buildings Manager</i>
<b>Miliadi Rodas-Cruz</b>	<i>Nursery Assistant</i>
<b>Sabrina Tyson</b>	<i>Nursery Assistant</i>
<b>Una Kettering</b>	<i>Office Administrator</i>

<b>Parish Associates</b>	Rev. Rev. John Seaman Rev. Carolyn Tilley
<b>Parish Assistant Greeter</b>	Rev. Eugene Eastman Isaac Frazer
<b>Treasurer</b>	Aggie Patti

## SESSION

**Clerk of Session – Kurt Lawson**

### Class of 2024

Phil Boyer  
Jean Dickey  
Rebecca Woodings  
Alphonso Williams

### Class of 2025

Samuel Kalibala  
Karol Keane  
Thomas Showalter  
Karen Lange

### Class of 2026

Kathy Belyeu  
Kurt Lawson  
Roger Griffis  
George Martin

## DEACONS

**Moderator of Deacons – Lisa Kiely**

### Class of 2024

Brian Forbin  
Lisa Kiely  
Madline Morsha-Taylor

### Class of 2025

Ethan Bailey  
Carol Christensen  
Martha Kiger

### Class of 2026

Cynthia Barron  
Neel Hunter  
Madeline Lindvall

## *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 3** 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.)

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 story movies followed by free play time. 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. 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.