

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 5, 2024

6th 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**.*

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

Preparation for the Word

"We have all known the long loneliness, and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community."

-Dorothy Day

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

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

Prelude **Menuet from, Le tombeau de Couperin**
Maurice Ravel

Welcome

Opening Prayer (unison)

God, give us a new heart to love what You love. Give us a new spirit to be faithful as You are faithful. Give us fresh eyes to see how You see. We want to be people not mired in inaction in the face of despair, but those who work to realize Your vision for the world. We want to be people who participate in unleashing Your kingdom of peace and gentleness and justice and love. Help us to be people marked by bright hope in the darkest of hours. Help us to be Easter people. Amen.

Call to Worship *Responsively*

We come to join with all the earth in praise:
**to sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,
who has shown us steadfast love and faithfulness.**

We praise the Lord with joyful noises, joining the symphony of the earth:

the roar of the ocean, the call of the birds, the wind across the hills, people in every corner of the globe.

On this Sabbath day of rest and gladness,
we greet you with joy, our Living God!

***Hymn 366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Prayer of Confession

The Spirit promises that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love. Therefore, let's confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and help us to become living instruments of peace and love.

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

Tender God, forgive us for our half-hearted faith that loves only when it is easy, and reaches out only to those who are like us. We ignore your less convenient commandments and fail to bear fruit that anyone would rejoice in. How can a faith like that transform the world into your realm of Shalom? Nourish us again, to blossom with whole-hearted faith that abides in your love and shines forth with joy. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!

The only one who could judge us calls us friends.

Jesus chose us over his own life, so let us choose Jesus in the life we have now.

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

1 John 5: 1-5

Anthem

Let Us Pray for Peace

Thomas Keesecher

Let us pray for peace, for the healing of creation.
May God's truth and justice mend ev'ry breach;
may we learn to live as one.
Let us pray for love, for the grace to offer mercy.
May compassion guide our way in the world,
may forgiveness heal division.
May forgiveness heal us all.
We pray for peace, we pray for understanding.
Pray that hatred cease, and God's reign is known on earth.
Hear our prayer for love.
Hear our voices, Lord, this day, we pray.
You know our hearts our selfish struggles.
Take away our pride, and fill us all with you.
Fill us with your peace, fill us with your love,
Fill us all this day, O lord, we pray.
May your will be done, here on earth as is in heaven.
May your reign of love be known in our lives,
may your will be done among us.
May we do your will. Amen.

Nancy Kraft

Time with the Children

Rev. Mark Harper

Second Scripture Reading

John 15:9-17

Sermon

Commencement Speech

Rev. Mark Harper

***Hymn 316**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Harper

Prayers will be read from the Prayer Book and the "Chat box".

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

Prelude in D-flat Major N013, Op. 32

Sergie Rachmaninoff

***Doxology 609**

LASST 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)**

Generous God, we bring you our offerings today and ask that you bless them. Bless the money we give, the tasks we undertake to be coworkers in your Beloved Community, and the hours of our week that our lives may be an offering to you. We pray in Jesus' name. 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 137 Jesus Came Down**

***Benediction**

***Postlude Toccata from, Le tombeau de Couperin
Maurice Ravel**

Community worship ends; discipleship and service begin anew.

Participants in this morning's service

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor

Rev. Carolyn Tilley, Communion Officiant

Mary Pat Brennan, Liturgist

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir

Aleksandra Velgosha, pianist

Jay Clouse, Zoom Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule for upcoming events

** Zoom events

Mon. May 6, 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Tue. May 7, 12.00 p.m. Virtual coffee hour**

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

Thur. May 9, 6.30 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Sun. May 12, 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 Jo and Elizabeth Hoge for providing
Coffee Hour refreshments today.

**+TPPC Gardening with Native Plants Event Sunday May 12,
12:30-2:30 p.m.**

Please join us in front of the church for our **2024 TPPC Native
Plants and Gardening for Wildlife Celebration.**

All are welcome, please spread the word! Come by to learn about
the many benefits of gardening with native plants - and the joy of
providing habitats for pollinators, birds and other wildlife. We will
also have some native plants to take home! This event is part of
TPPC's participation in the Sacred Grounds Gardening for Wildlife
Program sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and others
to help faith communities create wildlife habitat and stronger
communities. For more info contact Jill Feasley
jfeasley@verizon.net or Rogergriffis61@gmail.com.

+Saturday, May 11, 9:00 a.m. -to noon, is our annual **Church
Yardwork Day.** Please come help the Scouts beautify our church

grounds! All are welcome. Bring gloves and tools if you have them. For more information, call Diane 240-393-9285.

+Pentecost Sunday is May 19!

Each year on **Pentecost Sunday**, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come.

+Our worship Services will begin at 10: am on May 26, and continuing through September 1. On September 8 we return to 11:00 am Services.

+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.

Saturday May 11, 9:00 a.m. - noon



All are welcome! This is a wonderful sharing opportunity,

Share your favorite church story too!