

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 31, 2023

Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.



Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912
Website: www.takomaparkpc.org
Email: office@takomaparkpc.org
Tel: 301-270-5550

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

"The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all."

-Titus 2:11

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

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

Prelude **Now is born the Divine Christ Child** French Carol
Arr. Fred Bock

Welcome

Opening Prayer (unison)

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Worship

Responsively

Isaiah 9:6

A child has been born for us,
A son given to us;

Authority rests upon his shoulder, and he is named:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Creator, Prince of Peace.

Let us worship God!

***Hymn 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Prayer of Confession

We gather today in liminal space, at the end of one year and on the cusp of another. In all seasons, let us trust that God is with us and making all things new.

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

O God who travels with us through time, we are aware that we have not always received the days you give us as a gift; neither have we used all our minutes and hours to glorify you and love our neighbors. Grant us wisdom and fresh energy in the year to come so that we might bear witness to your grace and love, and the promise of your Beloved Community.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: With God all things are possible, including the renewal of our lives through the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

***Praise 582 (v.1) 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 of Christ**

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

Isaiah 6:1-8

Anthem **The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy** West Indian Carol
Arr. Earlene Rentz

Time with the Children

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Sermon **Letting Go and Getting On: Ritual of
Recommitment for All God's Children**

Rev. Mark Harper

***Hymn 132** **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Harper

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

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.

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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst
Arr. Donald Moore

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long time ago.

Angels and archangels o'er the stable there,
cherubim and seraphim gathered in the air;
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved, worshipped with a kiss.

O what can I give him, poor though as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
what I can I give him; give him my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1872) alt

*Doxology 607

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)

O holy God, we have gathered here to worship you, and yet you have given us the greatest gift of all. You have given us new life in Jesus Christ. Receive these offerings as an expression of our wonder and love. And transform them into life-giving hope for all who receive them. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Announcements of the Community's Life

*Sending Hymn 113 **Angels We Have Heard On High**

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude **Go. Tell It On the Mountains** American Folk Song
Arr. Fred Bock

Community worship ends; discipleship and service begin anew.

Participants in this morning's service

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor
Ruth Noel, Liturgist
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
Dr. James Bingham, piano
Jay Clouse, Zoom Technician
Erol Kalayoglu, Zoom Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule for upcoming events

**** Zoom events**

Tuesday, January 2, 12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour**
Tuesday, January 2, 6:30 p.m.	Worship Ministry**
Wednesday, January 3, 7:00 p.m.	Congregation and Community Engagement Ministry**
Wednesday, January 3, 8:15 p.m.	Presbyterians for Police Transformation Meeting**
Thursday, January 4, 6:30 p.m.	Deacons Meeting**
Sunday, January 7, 11:00 a.m.	Worship Service (<i>hybrid</i>)

+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.

+**Monday night choir rehearsals** are on a two-week hiatus and will resume Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

+In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church invites the congregation and wider Takoma Park Community to three Sunday morning discussions of King's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize Lecture "The Quest for Peace and Justice."

Discussions will take place in the church parlor and on zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/TPPCSundayBibleStudy> from 9:30-10:50 am.

Topics include:

January 14--Racial Justice;
January 21-- Poverty; and
January 28--War.

You can read the lecture:

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1964/king/lecture/>.

Excerpts are at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1He8x9iwHo61jwa5U0-hl7TsbJPHYHd87/edit>

+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>.

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!

+Thank you for your continued support of TPPC. As a reminder, there are several ways to donate 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**.