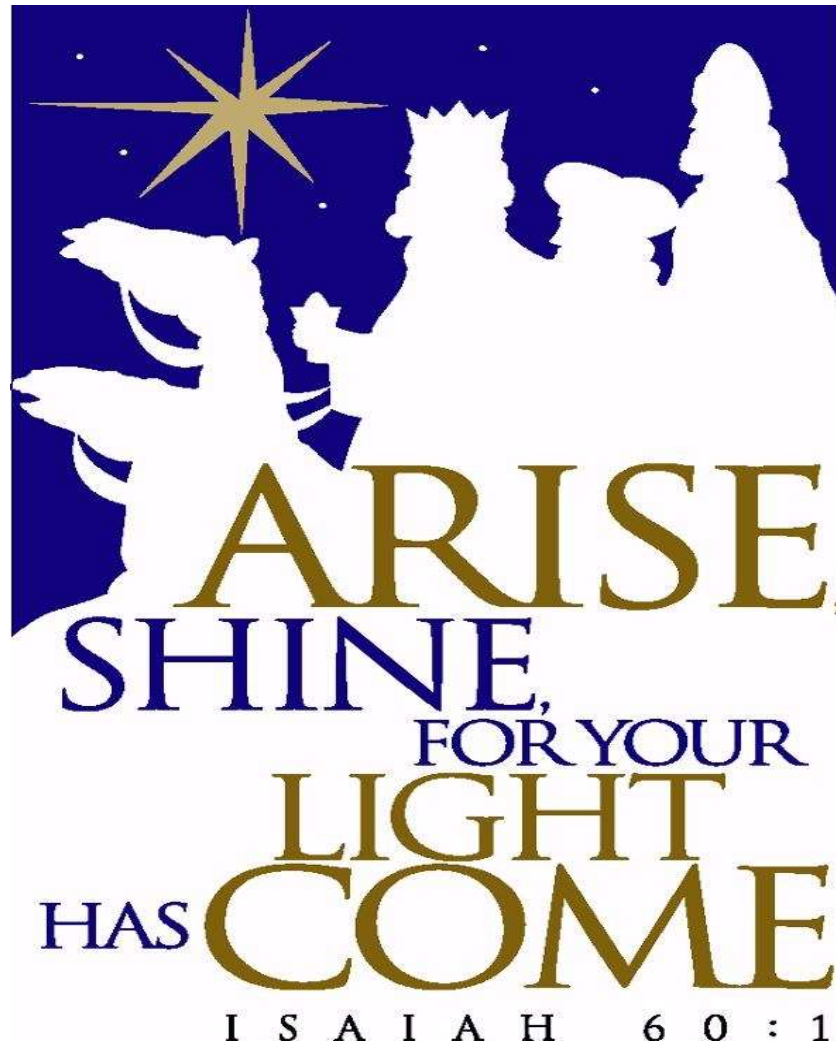


# TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*January 7, 2024*

*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](http://www.takomaparkpc.org)  
Email: [office@takomaparkpc.org](mailto: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.*

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

*"That is the trouble with God. God does not let you leave as you came. God sends you back, stripped of your presumptions, making for home by another way."*

*-from The Wild Goose Worship Group: Cloth for the Cradle*

## Preparation for the Word

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

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

**Prelude**

**We Three Kings**

John H. Hopkins

Arr. Albin C. Whitworth

**Welcome**

### **Opening Prayer (Unison)**

Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising. The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night that covers the earth and signals the dawn of justice and peace. May the brightness of Christ illumine our lives and call all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. Amen.

## **Call to Worship**

Isaiah 60:1,3

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
**And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Nations shall come to your light  
**And rulers to the brightness of your rising.**

Let us worship God!

**\*Opening Hymn 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!**

## **Prayer of Confession**

We come as seekers of God, aware of the holy presence but not always certain where we will be led. Let us confess our need for God's grace and guidance.

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

**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people.**

**We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light.**

**We turn away from the poor;**

**we ignore cries for justice;**

**we do not strive for peace.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us of our sins, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that forgiven and renewed, we may bear witness to your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

## *Silent Prayer*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

With God all things are possible:

receive God's amazing grace and know that today is the beginning of a whole new life.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

**\*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.)*

**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**

**Ephesians 3:1-12**

**Anthem    There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob**

Felix Mendelssohn

**Time with the Children**

**Pastor Mark Harper**

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 2:1-18**

**Reflection on the Word**

**Sermon**

**Light to the Powers**

**Rev. Mark Harper**

**\*Hymn 152    What Star is This, with Beams So Bright?**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Prayers of the People**

**Rev. Mark Harper**

*Prayers will be read from the Prayer Book and the "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 The First Nowell**      Sandys' Christmas Carols (1833)  
Arr. Dan Forrest

## **\*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)**

Holy God, we trust in the provisions of your love and the abundance of your grace. May the gifts we offer today bring glory to you as they bear your love into the world. We ask this 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 765    May the God of Hope Go with Us**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Trumpet Tune**

**Henry Purcell**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor

Rev. John Seaman, Communion Officiant

Brad Dickey, 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, January 8, 7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Tuesday, January 9, 12:00 p.m.	Virtual coffee hour**
Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting ( <i>hybrid</i> )
Wednesday, January 10, 8:15 p.m.	Presbyterians for Police Transformation**
Thursday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.	Committed Racial Mindfulness Meeting**
Saturday, January 13, 10:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study**
Sunday, January 14, 9:30 a.m.	MLK discussion ( <i>hybrid</i> )
Sunday, January 14, 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.

+**The Deacons** are called to a ministry of "compassion, witness, and service" in the life of the Church. Please contact the Deacons with any suggestions or requests concerning care of the people in the congregation and within the community.

+Our annual **Church Polar Bear Plunge** team is forming up now in preparation for the **February 10th** dip in the Potomac River to fight climate change. This year we are also honoring the memory of church member David Olson.

To join the plunge, access the TPPC Polar Bear Plunge page (<http://tinyurl.com/TPPCPolarBear2024>) and select the button "Join the Plunge Team." It's an amazing experience on the beach at National Harbor. You'll love it and the money you raise benefits both the TPPC Social Witness in Action Committee as well as the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

I hope you join us on February 10th! Mike Tidwell.



+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!

+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>

**+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).