

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 14, 2021

Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.



Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Website: www.takomaparkpc.org

E-mail: office@takomaparkpc.org

Tel: 301-270-5550

Preparation for the Word

"We don't own the land that we live on ... It's impossible to own the land that sacredly lives and breathes beneath our feet or to own the sky that holds the clouds and sun and moon over us. We build our homes over land that was never meant to be owned, and we forget. We pull out our checkbooks and we pile up our debt because we are consumers. We are entitled. We miss out on the reality that the water and the ground, this Earth that is capable of such rich relationship, have always been teaching us." Kaitlin Curtice

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Song Without Words

Darwin Wolford

Welcome

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of creation and abundant life, of death and rebirth, we give thanks for this good earth. Help us to see the goodness in all life and reject the forces that degrade the life of this planet. Amen.

Call to Worship

The Iona Worshipbook

This we know, the earth does not belong to us,

We belong to the earth.

This we know, all things are connected,

Like the blood that unites one family.

This we know, we did not weave the web of life,

We are merely a strand in it.

This we know, whatever we do to the web,

We do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

Let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ.

Let us worship God.

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful
praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:

Refrain:

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain:

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Refrain:

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain:

Prayer of Confession

Today we are hearing again that the Earth is the Lord's. Together let us do the work of constantly remembering that we are simply partners to this good Earth that holds us.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

We long to know the Earth in the intimate ways she's known us. We long to be the kind of people who listen more than we speak.

May we always be listening, because we are dust to dust.

We repent of the ways we have chosen to fill our pockets with money instead of our souls with the goodness of the earth.

May we change our ways. And may we honor her because we are dust to dust.

We acknowledge the Indigenous peoples who have always cared for the land. We acknowledge that we must learn from them, honor their stories, and pay attention to a deeper kind of relationship. May we dig deeper, because we are dust to dust.

We hope for a future in which we are hospitable because the Earth is hospitable. We long for a future in which our relationship is born out of constant connectedness so that when we care for one another, we are caring for her. May hospitality be our future, because we are dust to dust.

Because we are dust to dust and the Earth has always taken care of us, we will recognize our place in this world. Because we are dust to dust, we will choose, every day, to remember.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Because of God's love the Earth will endure and we will live. Because of God's great mercy, we have been freed from our sin and can love in ways that bring life to all living things.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Response of Joy 450 Be Thou My Vision (Sung) SLANE**

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination 458

THY WORD

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2x)

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 24:1-6

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for the Lord has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.
Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in the Lord's holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.
They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the Lord of their salvation.
Such is the company of those who seek God,
who seek the face of the God. *Selah.*

Anthem

There Is a Balm

Traditional Spiritual
Arr. Robert Lau

Time with the Children

Mission Partner Spotlight - Namulaba Clinic Dr. Samuel Kalibala

Second Scripture Reading

1 Kings 21:1-21,27-29

Later the following events took place: Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. And Ahab said to Naboth, 'Give me your vineyard, so that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house; I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money.' But Naboth said to Ahab, 'The Lord forbid that I should give you my ancestral inheritance.'

Ahab went home resentful and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him; for he had said, 'I will not give you my ancestral inheritance.' He lay down on his bed, turned away his face, and would not eat. His wife Jezebel came to him and said, 'Why are you so depressed that you will not eat?' He said to her, 'Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, "Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard for it"; but he answered, "I will not give you my vineyard."' His wife Jezebel said to him, 'Do you now govern Israel? Get up, eat some food, and be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.'

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal; she sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who lived with Naboth in his city. She wrote in the letters, 'Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth at the head of the assembly; seat two scoundrels opposite him, and have them bring a charge against him, saying, "You have cursed God and the king."

Then take him out, and stone him to death.' The men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. Just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, they proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the assembly. The two scoundrels came in and sat opposite him; and the scoundrels brought a charge against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, 'Naboth cursed God and the king.' So they took him outside the city, and stoned him to death. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, 'Naboth has been stoned; he is dead.'

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, 'Go, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead.' As soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab set out to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying: Go down to meet King Ahab of Israel, who rules in Samaria; he is now in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. You shall say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: Have you killed, and also taken possession?' You shall say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, dogs will also lick up your blood.'

Ahab said to Elijah, 'Have you found me, O my enemy?'

He answered, 'I have found you. Because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord, I will bring disaster on you; I will consume you, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel.'

When Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth over his bare flesh; he fasted, lay in the sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: 'Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the disaster on his house.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection on the Word

Sermon

The Earth is the Lord's

Pastor Mark Harper

*Hymn 22

God of the Sparrow

ROEDER

God of the sparrow God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake

God of the storm God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe

How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick

God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care

How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How does your children say Home

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Minute for Mission

Thomas Showalter

Prayers of the People

Rev. Carolyn Tilley

Bidding and unison response:
Accompanying God,
hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (Ecumenical)

Our God in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

The Offering Invitation

Offertory

Idyl

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

***Doxology 607**

Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, who we adore. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

O God, bless the gifts we present to you so that they may be a resource of life and hope, for our neighbors and the planet we share. Amen.

SENDING OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Announcements of Community Life

***Sending Hymn 79**

TEMPLE OF PEACE

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

*The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes.

Refrain:

Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes.

Refrain:

***Benediction**

Postlude **Prelude, from *Te Deum*** Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Community worship ends; discipleship and service begin anew.

Participants in this morning's service

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor
John Peacock, Liturgist
Dr. James Bingham, Music Director
Takoma Park Presbyterian Choir
Gary Cardillo, Cinematographer
Mateo Griffis, Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule for upcoming events

**** Zoom events**

Monday, November 15, Noon	Coffee Hour**
Monday, November 15, 7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, November 17, 8:00 PM	Police Transformation**
Sunday, November 21, 11:00 AM	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.

+As part of the community of faith at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, all have the privilege and responsibility to participate in the selection of officer candidates for consideration by the Nominating Committee of the Congregation. It is important for our church community that you have a voice. The Nominating Committee is currently seeking nominations for the position of Elder. Please submit your nominees or questions to Laura Raney (raneylaura@gmail.com) by Monday, November 15, 2021.

A nomination form is also on the church website at

<https://www.takomaparkpc.org/blog/nominations-needed-for-church-officers>

The position description is below:

Ruling Elders are elected to serve on the Session for a three-year term, with the opportunity to serve up to two consecutive terms. Together with the pastors (Teaching Elders) they share the leadership and governance of the church. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit.

Those called to be Ruling Elders should have the ability to work collaboratively, yet be independent thinkers, be effective communicators and seek to nurture the spiritual life of our community of faith.

Session

Class of 2021: LaVerne Davis, Jean Dickey, Alphonso Williams, Rebecca Woodings

Class of 2022: Anthony Gitangu, Ferd Hoefner, Susan Swift, Barbara Wootton

Class of 2023: Kathy Belyeu, Bruce Beran, Kurt Lawson, Laura Raney

Deacons

Class of 2021: Elias Howard, Lisa Kiely, Roger Griffis

Class of 2022: Mary Jacksteit, Karen Lange, Martha Kiger

Class of 2023: Caroline Gagnon, Neel Hunter, Madline Morsha-Taylor

Clerk of Session – Kurt Lawson

Moderator of Deacons – Karen Lange

+ Just Thanks Luncheon Returns, Sunday November 21

Hurrah! TPPCs traditional "Just Thanks" potluck, the Sunday before Thanksgiving will return to the Assembly Room this year at 12:30 pm, immediately after worship.

Please plan to attend. If you would like to help out with the event or prepare some food to share, please sign-up using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/just-thanks>. Please contact Rebecca Woodings (rlwoodings@aol.com) with questions.

+Once again this year we are planning to gather together and Give Thanks on the (Virtual) Steps **Thanksgiving morning** at 10:30 a.m. Please join us on Zoom and be ready to rejoice and give thanks. You are invited to bring a prayer or a poem or a song or a reading or a dance or an instrument. Whatever you feel moved to share will be appreciated. Matt Kaiser will be our leader.

+Announcements for the bulletin need to be sent to the office by Wednesday of the week.

+The Deacons are called to a ministry of “compassion, witness and service” in the life of the church. Please contact the Deacons with any requests or suggestions concerning the care of people in the congregation and within the community. Deacons meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Please contact us on office@takomaparkpc.org; (301-270-5550)

+Please keep the following meeting dates open on your calendars:

- Sunday, December 12, 2021 - Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers
- Sunday, February 6, 2022 - Annual Congregational Meeting (tentative)

The QR Code below will take you to the TPPC web site (thanks, Brian!), and can be copied and used in church signs and publications where useful. Brian Monsell, Joe Reynolds, and Kurt Lawson have digital copies.



+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 any questions, please contact finance@takomaparkpc.org.

STAFF

“Ministers: all the people of the church.”

Rev. Mark Harper - *Pastor*

Dr. James Bingham - *Director of Music*

Joanna Tipton - *Bookkeeper*

Gary Cardillo - *Buildings Manager*

Martha Talento - *Nursery Supervisor*

Teresa Abanto - *Nursery Assistants*

Una Kettering - *Office Administrator* office@takomaparkpc.org

Parish Associates

Rev. John Seaman

Rev. Carolyn Tilley

Parish Assistant

Rev. Eugene Olu Eastman

Treasurer

Aggie Patti

SESSION

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