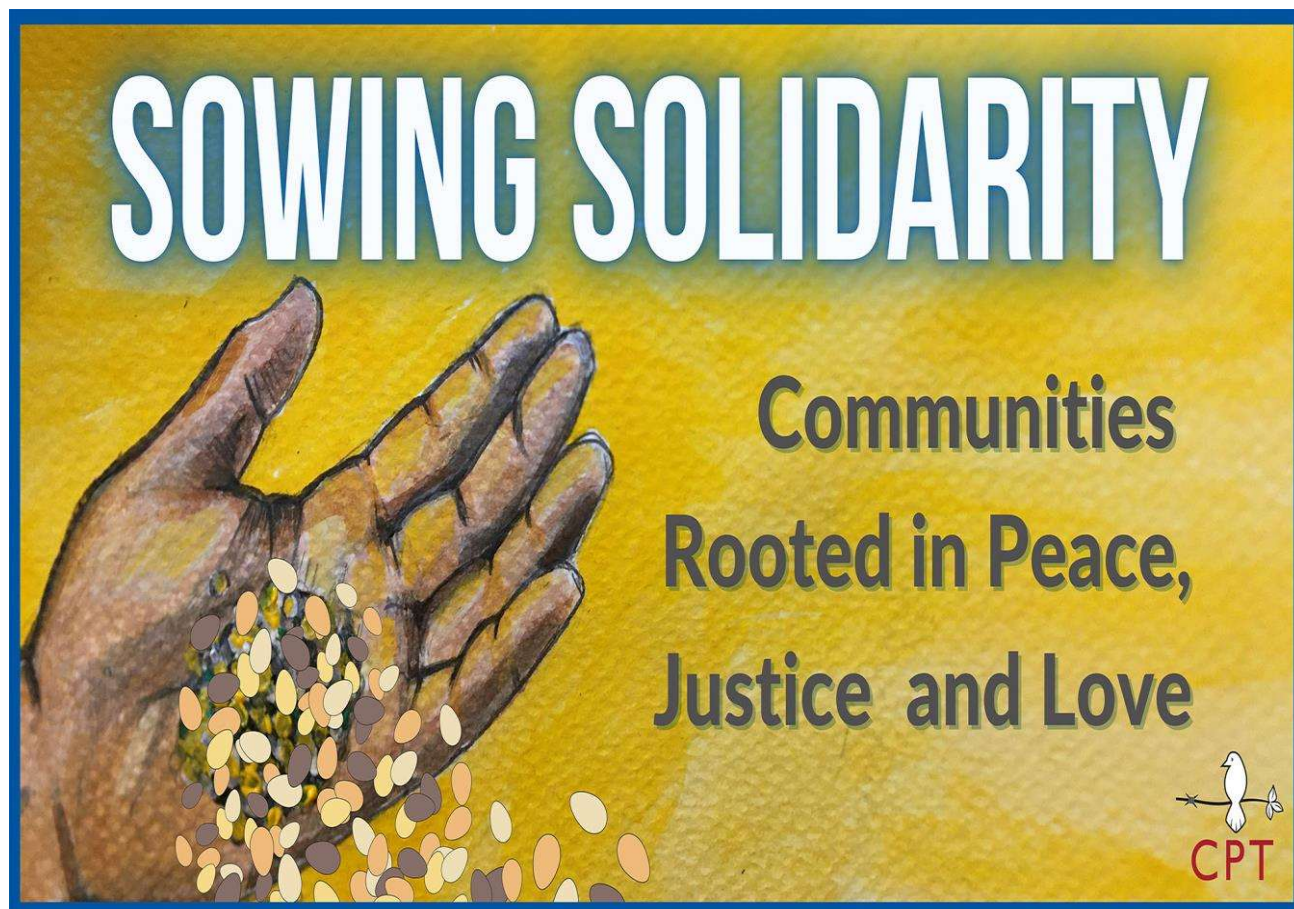


TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 8, 2022

4th 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
Website: www.takomaparkpc.org
Email: office@takomaparkpc.org
Tel: 301-270-5550

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

(Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

Facemasks are currently optional at TPPC; however, if you're not vaccinated, we recommend wearing a mask.

We recommend that everyone get the COVID vaccination and booster. If you have a vulnerable health condition or just prefer to wear a mask, please feel free to do so.

Health and Safety Committee.



*"God of abundance, we want to perceive the possibility of peace.
Soften our hearts to do the work of undoing oppressions.
Ignite our spirits that they may long for justice.
Give us a vision for a world where justice blooms,
where all are fed and all are free."*

Melissa Berkey-Gerard, Community Peacemaker Teams

Preparation for the Word

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude **O Thou, In Whose Presence** *David*
 My Soul Takes Delight **Arr. Gilbert M. Martin**

Welcome

Opening Prayer (Unison)

O God, we gather together in Your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit.

May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.

Call to Worship *(Responsively)*

God says, my beloved children, I know there is rich soil, ready to be cultivated.

God says, work the soil of liberation *together*. Side by side you will remove rocks, turn the weeds into compost, give loving attention to the earth and each other.

God says, my beloved children, work the soil together and worship my holy name.

***Opening Hymn 468 In My Life LORD, BE GLORIFIED**

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified today.

In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In our song, Lord, be glorified; be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

Prayer of Confession

We come before God to acknowledge that we have closed our eyes to realities too painful to see, but opening ourselves to the possibilities of new life that only the Spirit can create.

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

Let us pray:

Forgive us, Loving Creator. Much of this world is far from your vision of peace, love, and justice. You have called us to be peacemakers. Yet as humans we are constantly engaged in violence and war. You have asked us to love one another and live in unity, but we continue to live divided in camps and ideologies.

You have tasked us with caring for the earth and to live in harmony with the plants, animals, and waters of life.

Yet we extract its riches, devastate the land, and imprison the shepherds and the sowers.

Give us the imagination to see the path of peace. Open our hearts towards the earth and the restoration of its abundant life. Help us to stand in loving and radical solidarity with each other and the planet.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, through perfect love, God has created a way out of no way and has caused life to spring forth in the face of death.

In Christ we have been given the freedom to bear witness to this new life.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

***Response of Joy 591 (v.1) *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* (sung 2x)**

Halle, Halle, Halle- lu-jah! Halle, Halle, Halle- lu-jah!

Halle, Halle, Halle- lu-jah! Halle- lu-jah, Halle- lu-jah!

***Sharing 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.)

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

Isaiah 35:1-7

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
Your Creator will come and save you.
with terrible recompense.
The Holy One will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Anthem

Beautiful Savior

Schönster Herr Jesu
Silesian folk melody
Arr. David Cherwien

Beautiful Savior, king of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host,
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forever more be thine!

Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677
Trans. Joseph A Seiss, 1823 - 1904

Time with the Children

Pastor Mark

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

And he told them many things in parables, saying:

'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.

Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection on the Word

Sermon

This is Not My Grandfather's Garden

Rev. Mark Harper

***Hymn 822**

When We Are Living

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
We belong to God; we belong to God

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
We belong to God; we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
When sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
Whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
We belong to God; we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find
Those who are crying with no peace of mind,
But when we help them, or when we feed them,
We belong to God; we belong to God.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Rev. Carolyn Tilley

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

Response: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

The Lord's Prayer

Loving God, we honor you, and we honor all that you have made
Renew the whole world in the image of your love.

Give us what we need for today,
and a hunger to see the whole world fed.

Strengthen us for what lies ahead;
heal us from the hurts of the past;
give us courage to follow your call in this moment.

For your love is the only power,
the only home, the only honor we need,
in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Mission Partner Spotlight

More Light Presbyterians

Jessica Vazquez Torres, is a member of the National
More Light Presbyterian Organization.

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

O God, in a Mysterious Way

Dundee

Healey Willan

***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, Sower of Hope, we offer you our gifts, knowing that you delight in the smallest coins, in humble acts of solidarity, and in the simple offering of a contrite heart. Amen.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Announcements of the Community's Life

***Sending Hymn 741 (v.1-3)**

Guide My Feet

Guide my feet while I run this race;
Guide my feet while I run this race;
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race;
Hold my hand while I run this race;
Hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Stand by me while I run this race;
Stand by me while I run this race;
Stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Charge and Benediction

***Postlude** **Postlude on "Darwall"** *Darwall's 148th*
Healey Willan

Community worship ends; discipleship and service begin anew.

Participants in this morning's service

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor
Donna Wieting, Liturgist
Carol Christensen, Flute
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir
Dr. James Bingham, Music Director
Gary Cardillo, Cinematographer
Mateo Griffis, Technician
Mandy Parsons-Moser, Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule for upcoming events

Zoom Events **

Monday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, May 10, 12:00 p.m.	Informal Coffee**
Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting**
Wednesday, May 11, 8:00 p.m.	Presbyterian for Police Transformation**
Thursday, May 12: 7:30 p.m.	Committed Racial Mindfulness meeting**
Saturday, May 14, 10:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study**
Sunday, May 15, 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.

+Today we are joining congregations around the world in celebrating "**Sowing Solidarity: Communities Rooted in Peace, Justice and Love**", an Eastertide campaign of Community Peacemaker Teams <https://cpt.org/>

They invite us to explore how sowing solidarity can nurture thriving communities in our own contexts as well as around the world; and to learn about experiences of Columbian communities resisting violence and oppression and to commit to acts of solidarity.

+Today at 3:pm EDT, you are invited to attend an Open Space conversation with the Columbian Peacemaker Team and guests from the Columbian grassroots organization CAHUCOPANA. To register go to <https://cpt.org/take-action/easter>.

+Do you know someone who is graduating this May or June from high school or college? Grad school counts too! If so, please email me at karenlang09@gmail.com. The deacons are putting together a list to honor the class of 2022. Thanks, Karen Lange

+**PLANTING HOPE - Native Plant Give-Away.** Today TPPC and partners will host a special event after church to encourage caring for creation by using native plants. Native plants sustain wildlife and protect

Sligo Creek from polluted run-off. The event will include information on using native plants and rain gardens as well as native plants to put in your yard. To sign up for native plants please register by taking the simple pledge-(<https://support.nwf.org/page/37119/survey/1>) to join other faith communities in promoting the use of native plants.

See you after worship! Roger Griffis.

+Saturday, May 14, will be the **Women's Bible Study Meeting**; for more information, please contact Jo Hoge.

+Takoma Park Arts: The Takoma Park City Arts Community has invited us to join them at 7500 Maple Avenue, on Thursday, May 12; at 7:30 p.m. This is a **Poetry Reading Event**. This event features ambassadors from **Free Minds Organization** who will share poetry they wrote when they were incarcerated in D.C. Jails or Federal Prisons across the country. Their words reveal the human costs of imprisonment and the power of poetry to provide a voice and offer healing.

+Church Family: Please see the photo wall at the back of the sanctuary. Let me know if you would like a new photo to be on the wall. johoge@verizon.net

+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 6:00 pm. Please contact us on office@takomaparkpc.org; (301-270-5550)

+As part of the community of faith at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, all members 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 to serve on the Session for the remainder of 2022.

Ruling Elders are elected to serve on the Session, and 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. If you need more information:

Please contact Laura Raney (raneylaura@gmail.com).

+Thank you to everyone 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.

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*

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

Class of 2022

Anthony Gitangu

Ferd Hoefner

Barbara Wootton

Class of 2023

Kathy Belyeu

Bruce Beran

Kurt Lawson

Laura Raney

Class of 2024

Phil Boyer

Jean Dickey

Alphonso Williams

Rebecca Woodings

DEACONS

Mary Jacksteit

Karen Lange

Martha Kiger

Caroline Gagnon

Neel Hunter

Madline Morsha-Taylor

Elias Howard

Roger Griffis

Lisa Kiely

Clerk of Session - Kurt Lawson

Moderator of Deacons - Karen Lange