

# TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 18, 2022

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.*



“Whoever  
welcomes  
one of these  
little children  
in my name  
welcomes me...”

Mark 9:37

**Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor**

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church  
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# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*(\* Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

**Facemasks are currently optional at TPPC. However, given the recent increase in local community transmission, we strongly encourage wearing a mask regardless of your vaccination status.**

***We recommend that everyone stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. 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

*“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”*

*Galatians 3:27-28*

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Prelude**

Deep River

Traditional Spiritual  
Arr. James Bingham

**Welcome**

**Opening Prayer (Unison)**

Mighty God, by your love we are given children through the miracle of birth. May we greet each new son and daughter with joy, and surround them with faith, so they may know who you are and want to be your disciples.

Never let us neglect children, but help us enjoy them, showing them the welcome you have shown us all; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

**Call to Worship**                      *Responsively*

O give thanks to the Lord,  
**for the Lord is good.**

The steadfast love of our Creator endures forever.

**Let us worship God!**

**\*Opening Hymn 451      Open My Eyes, That I May See**

**Prayer of Confession**

The scriptures remind us that by grace we have become God's people. And yet we struggle to remember that truth in a world that would split us into many camps. Each day we have a chance to recommit to our true identity within the Beloved Community of Christ.

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

**O God who chooses us, help us to choose you and to commit to the community of faith you are still creating. Help us to remember that we not only need your guidance and love, but we need one another in order to navigate our days and be whole. Help us to receive into our life together all who are seeking a world of welcome, justice, and joy.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

The one who welcomed children and outcasts into the circle of faith extends this same invitation to all who hunger and thirst for life and justice. By our Creator's mercy and love, we have been set free to say 'yes' to that invitation.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*Response of Joy 750 Goodness**    *(sung twice)*

Goodness is stronger than evil;

Love is stronger than hate;

Light is stronger than darkness;

Life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours; victory is ours

Through God who loves us.

## **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**

[Psalm 63:1-4](#)

**Anthem**      **I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**      Traditional Spiritual  
Arr. Bryan L. Greer

### **Time with Children**

Pastor Harper

## **The Sacrament of Baptism for Mara Ruth Ellenbogen**

Introduction of Child and Family

### **Question to the Parent**

*Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith to the best of your ability, and to teach this faith to your child?*

### **Question to the Congregation**

*Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Mara by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving Over the Water**

## **The Baptism**

## **Welcome**

**\*Hymn 486**

**Child of Blessing, Child of Promise**

## Second Scripture Reading

[Luke 16:1-13](#)

## Reflection on the Word

Sermon

The Bottom Line

Rev. Mark Harper

\*Hymn 175 (v.1-2)

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### Prayers of the People

Rev. John Seaman

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

**Prayer Response:** God of grace, **Grant us Mercy.**

### The Lord's Prayer - Unison

*(Parker Palmer version)*

Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother,  
Holy and Blessed is your true name.

We pray for your reign of peace to come.

We pray that your good will be done.

Let heaven and earth become one.

Give us this day the bread we need.

Give it to those who have none.

Let forgiveness flow like a river between us

From each one to each one to each one.

Lead us to holy innocence

Beyond the evil of our days

Come swiftly Mother, Father come

For yours is the power, mercy, the glory.

Forever your name is all in One. 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**      **There Is a Balm in Gilead**      Traditional Spiritual  
Arr. Benjamin Harlan

**\*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, pour out your blessings on these gifts that they might bring hope to all who receive them. And in our giving, help us to envision the new world you are creating in our midst. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

### **Announcements of the Community's Life**

**\*Sending Hymn 846** (vs. 1-3)      **Fight the Good Fight**

### **Charge and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**      **Postlude**      Marc - Antoine Charpentier

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

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

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor  
Roger Griffis, Liturgist  
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir  
Dr. James Bingham, Music Director  
Gary Cardillo, Cinematographer  
Jay Clouse, Technician

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Schedule for upcoming events Zoom Events \*\*

Monday, September 19, 7:30p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, September 20, 12:00 p.m.	Informal Coffee**
Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.	Critical History Project**
Wednesday, September 21, 8:15 p.m.	Presbyterians for Police Transformation*
Saturday, September 24, 9:00 a.m.	CRM Planning Meeting
Sunday, September 25, 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.

**+Let Justice Roll Down:** Register Voters with the MD PPC Regional groups of the Maryland Poor People's Campaign, including one focused on Prince George's County, will be registering and mobilizing voters **September 16 - 18.**

Volunteers are needed to speak with voters about justice issues, distribute and explain voting information, and assist with registering people to vote. [maryland@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:maryland@poorpeoplescampaign.org)

**+Help Tell TPPC's Story - October 15-16<sup>th</sup>:** There is a video coming together, just two minutes long and packed with all that is best about TPPC -- according to you. On the morning of Saturday October 15, an award-winning local crew will be at the church to video your short testimonials, including from those who spoke so eloquently in the spring.

Possible topics: Why did you choose TPPC as your church home? What keeps you coming back? Highlights of your time here? Please plan to swing by. It will take a small amount of time yet be a big contribution. We will have a sign-up sheet at church starting Sunday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and you can also email a reply to [swiftdrake@aol.com](mailto:swiftdrake@aol.com).

Lend your voice: help tell the story of TPPC.

**+TPPC Meditation Group** meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., in the Church Library. All are welcome.

+Would you like to learn about what the **Critical History Project** research is discovering but weren't able to attend the presentation and discussion on zoom earlier this summer?

Here is an opportunity to listen to it online:

<https://tinyurl.com/TPPCHistoryAudioJune12>

or watch the video

<https://tinyurl.com/TPPCHistoryVideoJune12>

**+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 meet the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm.

Please contact us at [deacons@takomaparkpc.org](mailto:deacons@takomaparkpc.org).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Madeline Radman

**Class of 2023**

Kathy Belyeu

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