

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 19, 2023

4th Sunday in Lent

Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.



LAMENTATIONS 3:22, NRSV

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor

310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park MD 20912

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THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

(Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

+Facemasks are currently optional. 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.

"Stories of suffering can never be buried when lament is an important and central aspect of the church's worship life. Lamentations reminds us that the proper response to tragedy and suffering is lament."

-Soong-Chan Rah, Prophetic Lament

Preparation for Worship

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

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

Prelude My Shepherd Will Supply My Needs RESIGNATION
Arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Loving God, you have led us to this place, not to shield us from heartache and the pain of human life, but to help us face the truth of our transgressions and our complicity with injustice. Heal us, inspire us, and redirect us, till we see the world as you do and love it with your love.
Amen.

Call to Worship *Responsively* from Psalm 51

Open my lips, O God, that my mouth may proclaim your praise.

Sacrifices give you no pleasure. If I were to bring you a burnt offering you would not accept it.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit.

A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Let us worship God.

***Hymn 796 We Come to You for Healing, Lord**

Prayer of Confession

True peace requires an acknowledgment of the things that make peace impossible. Real shalom requires lament, a speaking of the sins that have broken us out of right relationship with God, one another, and this earth. Let us place ourselves before God in honesty and hope.

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

O God, we grieve how we have forgotten the truth that all people are created in your holy image. That inheritance has been co-opted and denied. The body of Michael Brown was treated disgracefully; the children of Eric Garner have become fatherless; widowed mothers grieve their dead children; more living children than we know go to bed hungry. Our sense of exceptionalism has been exposed; we have sinned. Because of this our hearts grow faint and our eyes dim.

Have you rejected us, O Lord?

Are you angry with us beyond measure?

Even so, we trust that you reign forever and by grace can restore us to yourself.

(adapted from "A Post-Ferguson Lament," by Soong-Chan Rah)

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. God forgives us and calls us to remember who we were created to be.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Praise 750 Goodness is Stronger than Evil**

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.)

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

Psalm 22:1-11, 16-21, 25-31

Anthem

Caroline and Tom Alderson

Time with the Children

Pastor Harper

Second Scripture Reading

Lamentations 1:17-22

Reflection on the Word

Testimony

Lamentation and Living

Madline Morsha-Taylor and John Peacock

***Hymn 779 How Long, O God, Will My Prayers Be in Vain?**

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Rev. Mark Harper

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

Prayer Response: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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

Caroline and Tom Alderson

*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)

O God of Justice, Hear our acknowledgment that these offerings are only the beginning of the work of reparation and restoration needed to make your world whole again. Receive them in the spirit of hope that guides them to you and our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Announcements of the Community's Life

*Sending Hymn 775 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

*Benediction

*Postlude Christians We have Come to Worship

HOLY MANNA
Arr. Mark Hayes

Community worship ends; discipleship and service begin anew.

Note:

During his presentation at TPPC last December on the Doctrine of Discovery, Mark Charles challenged us to reclaim the practice of lament as a necessary step towards true shalom. Today's worship service was envisioned and planned by members of our Critical History Project as an initial experiment in reclaiming lamentation as one of our key spiritual disciplines. Special thanks to Ruth Noel, Jill Feasley, John Peacock, Madline Morshataylor, and Caroline and Tom Alderson for their contributions to this service.

Participants in this morning's service

Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor

Diane Curran, Liturgist

Thomas and Caroline Alderson

Dr. James Bingham, Organ

Jay Clouse, Technician

Erol Kalayoglu, Zoom Master Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Schedule for upcoming events
**** Zoom events**

Monday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, March 21, 12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour**
Tuesday, March 21, 3:30 p.m.	Critical History Project
Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.	Lenten Vesper Service (<i>hybrid</i>)
Wednesday, March 22, 8:15 p.m.	Presbyterians for Police Transformation**
Sunday March 26, 9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School (<i>hybrid</i>)
Sunday March 26, 11:00 a.m.	James Bingham's <i>Requiem</i> , as part of a Special Lenten Choral 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.

+**Due to an emergency in Pastor Harper's family,** the celebratory lunch to honor Mark and Sue has been postponed. A new date will be announced soon.

Please let us keep Pastor Harper and his family in our prayers.

+Please Sign-up to host **Sunday Coffee Hour** after worship. Hosting Sunday Coffee Hour is easy and fun! We need volunteers!

Please sign-up today using this link

<https://tinyurl.com/TPPCoffeeHourSignUp> or contact Darryl McPherson (thisisdarryl@gmail.com) for signup or more information. Contact Roger Griffis, 301-980-4694 or rogergriffis61@gmail.com. Thank you.

+**Committed Racial Mindfulness (CRM)** is at the heart of our congregational mission. CRM is now designated as a ministry of TPPC. A new initiative was approved by Session for 2023 to ensure that CRM is an integral aspect of our church life.

You are invited to participate in this exciting new step. Please join us as strive together to help build the Beloved Community.

We will be meeting the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. A zoom link will be sent out during that week.

+On Sunday, March 26, the choir will perform selections from James Bingham's *Requiem*, as part of a special Lenten Choral Service. This work was composed in 1998 in memory of a fateful summer ten years earlier. Originally written for soprano and bass soli, SATB choir and symphony orchestra, it was envisioned as a concert work and not a liturgical work, therefore, it required editing down to make it an appropriate length for a church service.

It is dedicated to the memory of three very dear people in Bingham's life, all dying in the summer of 1988: his sister, Dorothy Lynette Bingham Welsh, who died of breast cancer on Mother's Day, Paul Poyser, the lead basso in Bingham's choir, who drowned in Hawaii while on a concert tour to Australia, and his father, Joseph Thomas Bingham, who died in August from mesothelioma.

The words to this *Requiem* are macaronic in that both Latin and English liturgical and Biblical texts are used. It was inspired by the gentle lyricism, memorable tunes and simple beauty of both Gabriel Faure's and John Rutter's *Requiems*. Robert Chase, in his definitive work, *Dies Irae, A Guide to Requiem Music*, states: "Less renowned, but worthy of significant attention, is the beautiful 1999 setting composed by James Bingham..." Even though new to most in the congregation, it is hoped that the message and the music will provide a thoughtful and pleasurable experience for all who attend. The performers are Denique Isaac, soprano, Melville Andrade, bass, the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir with additional friends, accompanied by a small group of instruments playing an orchestral reduction composed especially for this church service.

Please mark the date in your calendars and come and enjoy this Lenten worship service.

+Donations are needed to help send Takoma kids to summer camps. Last year we raised \$3,255 which was used to register over 60 kids to summer camps, fall clinics and sports leagues. This year, we have only raised \$1,215 which will allow us to be ~1/3 as helpful. Please consider a not-for-profit donation today:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/send-takoma-kids-to-basketball-camp>

All donations are received directly by the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and distributed directly by them.

As many of you know, the time for summer camp registration is upon us. Please have anyone who needs a summer camp scholarship email radman.thomas@gmail.com

+It is almost Spring!!! TPPC Green Team has scheduled Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to noon as our **annual church yard cleanup**, with help from Boy Scout Troop 33. Your help is needed to weed, clip and mulch to beautify our church grounds for the spring and summer season.

Bring your trowel, clippers and garden gloves. Or, if you don't have them, come anyway! For more information contact Diane Curran at dcurran@harmoncurran.com

+Ecumenical Advocacy Days is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community, and its recognized partners and allies, grounded in biblical witness and our shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

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