

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday after Easter
Sunday, April 18, 2021
Live-streamed at 11:00 a.m.



310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

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E-mail: office@takomaparkpc.org

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"How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? Every part of the Earth is sacred to my people, every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clear and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people." --Chief Seattle, 1854



WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

*(If you wish to share a prayer during the Prayers of the People,
you may write your petition in the Chat format.)*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 8

O Lord our God, how exalted is your name in all the world!

**When we consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the
moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

What are human beings that you should be mindful of them?

Mortals that you should seek them out?

You have made us a little lower than the angels; you adorn us with
glory and honor;

O Lord our God, how exalted is your name in all the world!

Opening Prayer

O God, Holy Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world and whose
voice is heard in the soft breeze, we need your strength and
wisdom. Come to us and among us; come as the wind and cleanse
us. We join with the chorus of the whole of your creation to sing
your praise. Amen.

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother wind with clouds and rain,
You nurture gifts of fruit and grain. Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sister water, flowing clear,
Make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother fire, so warm and bright,
Chase off the shadows of the night. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfolds such blessings on your way,
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sisters, brothers, take your part,
And worship God with humble heart. Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless Creator, Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Hosea 4:1-3

There is no loyalty or faithfulness, and no knowledge of God in the land. Swearing stealing, lying, and murder and break out; bloodshed follows bloodshed. The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing.

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is risen from the grave and has shattered the power of death, we are still held captive by fear and doubt. We hold on to suspicions and jealousies that set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We have neglected the poor and the hungry.

In our pursuit of the "good life" we have gone along with injustice; we have ignored the cries of the oppressed. We pursue profits and pleasures that harm the land and pollute the waters. We have squandered the Earth's gifts on technologies of destruction. Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we and all your creatures may know the joy of life abundant, given through Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 8; II Corinthians 5

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ,
and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.
Amen.

Response of Joy 750

Desmond Tutu

*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.
Victory is ours, victory is ours, through God who loves us.*

Sharing the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

(Worshippers may unmute themselves and share the peace.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination 283

(Yoruba)

*Wa wa wa Emimimo, Wa wa wa Alagbara,
Wao wao wao.*

*Come, O Holy Spirit, come. Come, almighty Spirit come.
Come, come, come.*

First Lesson

Genesis 2:4-10,15

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up – for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground – then the LORD God formed a human from the dust of the ground, and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life; and the human became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the human whom God had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ... The LORD God put the human in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

Romans 8:18-28

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the

Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silent Reflection on the Word

Sermon

Earth Shall Be Fair

Pastor Reisner

Hymn 21

LAQUIPARLE

Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works

Many and great, O God, are thy works,
maker of earth and sky.
Thy hands have set the heavens with stars,
Thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at thy word the waters were formed.
Deep seas obey thy voice.

Grant unto us communion with thee,
Thou star abiding One.
Come unto us and dwell with us
With thee are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
Eternal life with thee.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Moment for Mission

The Green Team

Earth Care Pledge

God's plan for all creation is peace and justice. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

Prayers of the People

The prayers in the chat box will be read with the unison response:

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) 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

The Offertory

Doxology

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

Creator God, may the offerings we bring this day be used as seeds, planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly, so that Your way may be realized anew in this world. Grant us the humility we need to plant and tend your precious garden. Amen.

Announcements of the Community's Life

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

Sending Hymn 714

ITALIAN HYMN

God of the Fertile Fields

God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields, our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land, be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you, all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used,
no gift of yours abused,
No humble task refused, your love bestows.

God of the country side,
dear to the Christ who died, to make us one:
We pledge our lives anew
in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Charge and Benediction

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

Participants in this morning's service

Jim Reisner, Interim Pastor
David Olson, Liturgist
Dr. James Bingham, Music Director
Roger Griffis, Song Leader
Gary Cardillo, Cinematographer
Joe Reynolds, Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ZOOM schedule for this week

Monday, April 19, 12 noon	Coffee Hour
Monday, April 19, 7:00 PM	Online Green Workshop (more details below)
Monday, April 19, 8:00 PM	Police Transformation Meeting
Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 PM	Evening Prayer
Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 PM	Pastor Nominating Committee
Sunday, April 25, 11:00 AM	Sunday Worship

+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.

+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. office@takomaparkpc.org; (301-270-5550)

+Please keep the Pastor Nominating Committee in your prayers. Our PNC members are: Philip Boyer, Carol Christensen, LaVerne Davis, Roger Griffis, Samuel Kalibala, Madeline Radman, and Vicki Warren.

+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 Anthony Gitangu (gitangu@gmail.com), Thomas Showalter (tshowal@gmail.com) or Barbara Wootton (barbara.wootton@arnoldporter.com).

+On-line Workshop: Using Native Plants to Create Rain Gardens and Wildlife Habitat at Home

Join us April 19 from 7-9 PM to learn from experts on how to create wildlife habitat and rain gardens at your home. Register and receive the Zoom link here: <http://bit.ly/3vH7ewQ>.

We will share tips on the following:

- What are the best native plants for my yard?
- Where can I buy them?
- How will they help with flooding and pollution runoff into Sligo Creek?
- Designing a garden with native plants
- Montgomery County RainScapes application and rebate information (not available to TP residents)
- And any other questions you may have!

By caring for creation, together we can help sustain our precious Sligo Creek and ensure our children have a clean and safe community well into the future.

STAFF

“Ministers: all the people of the church.”

James L. Reisner - *Interim 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**

Greeter **Isaac Frazer**

Treasurer **Aggie Patti**

SESSION

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
LaVerne Davis	Anthony Gitangu	Kathy Belyeu
Jean Dickey	Ferd Hoefner	Bruce Beran
Rebecca Phares	Susan Swift	Kurt Lawson
Alphonso Williams	Barbara Wootton	Laura Raney

DEACONS

Elias Howard	Mary Jacksteit	Caroline Gagnon
Lisa Kiely	Karen Lange	Neel Hunter
Roger Griffis	Martha Kiger	Madline Morsha-Taylor

Clerk of Session **Ferd Hoefner**

Moderator of Deacons **Karen Lange**