

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church

Always Welcomes You



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021
Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.

310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912
Website: www.takomaparkpc.org
E-mail: office@takomapark0v.org
Tel: 301-270-5550

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

And whosoever will be chief among you, let them be your servant: Even as the Incarnate Word came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Matthew 20:27-28



WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

(People who want to share a prayer during the Prayers of the People may write their petitions in the Zoom Chat format.)

We respectfully ask everyone to wear masks in the church for their own health. Those who are presenting or leading the congregation in singing may remove their masks while they are presenting or singing.

Prelude

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

Welcome

Roger Griffis

The Deacons welcome you to Worship today

Call to Worship

Psalm 100

Elias Howard

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,
Worship the Lord with gladness;
Come into the Lord's presence with thanksgiving.

**For the Lord is good,
Whose steadfast love endures forever,
And whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Elias Howard

Let us be glad in the ways of the Lord who presides among stars yet teaches the human heart, who authors the mystery of our freedom and risks the divine love among our human choices, who intends

that each one shall go without fear and that all shall share the music of the deep heavens, who gathers us on Holy Ground to learn together who we are, and how to serve those in need. Let us be glad and truly rejoice in the ways of the Lord who is our health and our salvation. Amen.

Opening Hymn 401

GATHER US IN

Gather Us In

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
Now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung through-out all of history,
Called to light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:

Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Invitation to Confession

Elias Howard

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, help us to know and accept ourselves, and help us walk in your ways to the glory of your Name.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Elias Howard

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response of Joy 450 *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.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word,
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
Heart of my own heart whatever befall;
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Sharing the Peace Ephesians 4:1-3 Elias Howard
Lead a life worthy of your calling with humility, gentleness, and
patience, bearing with one another in love, and making every
effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
(Worshippers may unmute themselves and share the peace.)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

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

First Lesson **Ecclesiastes 12** Elias Howard

Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of
trouble come, and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no
pleasure in them'; before the sun and the light and the moon and the
stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; on the day
when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent,
and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and
those who look through the windows see dimly; when the doors on
the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises
up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought
low; when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the
almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire
fails; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will
go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden
bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the
wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was,

and the breath returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.

Besides being wise, the Teacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs. The Teacher sought to find pleasing words, and he wrote words of truth plainly.

The sayings of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings that are given by one shepherd. Of anything beyond these, my child, beware. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Revere God, and keep God's commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone. For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Second Lesson

Acts 6:1-6

Roger Griffis

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.'

What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

They had these people stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Silent Reflection on the Word

Sermon “Compassion, Witness, and Service Reflections on being a Deacon”

(Lisa Kiely, Martha Kiger, Madline Morsha-Taylor, Karen Lange)

Hymn 749

WE ARE CALLED

Come Live in the Light

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God.

*Refrain: We are called to act with justice;
 We are called to love tenderly;
 We are called to serve one another,
 To walk humbly with God*

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so that hatred and violence will be no more.

Refrain:

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.

Refrain:

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers and Concern of the People

Rev. Eugene Eastman

Prayers from the congregation via the prayer book and the chat box will be read.

Unison Response: God, 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

Mission Peace & Global Witness Special Offering by Rebecca Woodings

Offering Invitation

The Offertory

“Ubi Caritas et Amor (Where There Is Love There Is God)”
Karen Lange and Caroline Gagnon

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

Lord God, in deep gratitude for the gift of our lives we give ourselves to you. Lead us into this new week as changed people, transformed by your grace and your love. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. May we each sow the seeds of your love freely, and may they indeed take root in our world. Amen.

Announcements of the Community's Life

Sending Hymn 700

I'M GONNA LIVE

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna work so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna work so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

Charge and Benediction

Lisa Kiely

Postlude

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

Participants in this morning's service

Deacons: Karen Lange, Caroline Gagnon, Roger Griffis,
Elias Howard, Lisa Kiely, Martha Kiger, Madline Morsha-Taylor
Rev. Eugene Eastman, Parish Assistant
Dr. James Bingham, Music Director
Roger Griffis, Song Leader
Gary Cardillo, Cinematographer

Mateo Griffis, Technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zoom schedule for this week

Mon, Sept. 27, noon	Coffee Hour
Mon, Sept. 27, 8:00 p.m.	Police Transformation Meeting
Sun, Oct. 3, 11:00 a.m.	World Communion Sunday

+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's celebrate! Next Sunday, **October 3, Rev. Mark Harper will officially join us in Worship as our new Pastor.** Please join us for the Service and a special celebration and lunch following Worship to welcome Rev. Harper to our church family.

+**World Communion Sunday - October 3:** Christians of different denominations join together to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This is a day when we remember our unity in Christ across all the barriers of language, culture, race and theology.

At TPPC we are graced with people from many cultures. We all share of the one loaf and the one cup, offered in peace by our Savior. To honor our diversity, while we celebrate our unity in Christ, we suggest that if possible, wear clothing that is common to your own tradition or one that you admire. Also, if you have some cloth that you would be willing to share, to decorate the sanctuary, please bring it to the sanctuary by **10:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 3,** so it can be displayed." Thank you!

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

+Worship plans: Our worship service has moved to the Library, in the Education Building while the sanctuary is being renovated. The re-plastering and painting of the sanctuary continues. We will move back into the sanctuary when the renovation is complete. In the meantime, we will continue to live-stream our worship with the primary focus on delivering a complete service for people participating on Zoom. People are welcome to come to church for worship, but no one should feel obligated to be personally present. The entrance for worship during the renovation is through the wooden door on Maple Avenue.

+Rebuild, Renew, Rejoice! The renovation work in the sanctuary is progressing very nicely. Many thanks to everyone for the ‘labor of love’ which has gone into making the work possible. We rejoice in prospect of returning to our renewed Sanctuary very soon!

+We respectfully ask that everyone wear masks in the church for their own health. Those who are presenting or leading the congregation in singing may remove their masks while they are presenting or singing.

+World Communion Sunday is October 3, 2021.

The **Peace & Global Witness Offering** offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. *Peace at all times, in all ways. 2 Thess.3:16.* Please see the brochures at the end of the bulletin.

Peace Offering - Gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enable the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the globe, embracing God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world. In the 1980s, TPPC made a special commitment to peacemaking, and supporting the special offering is one small way we express that commitment.

TPPC Share - Unique among the special offerings, TPPC retains 25% of all the funds raised for our own peacemaking activities or to support peace and justice efforts of our own choosing. 50% of the funds raised support PCUSA global missions and the remaining 25% support peace and reconciliation activities at the synod level. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ at multiple levels.

Please give generously. Thank you.

+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.”

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
Alphonso Williams	Susan Swift	Kurt Lawson
Rebecca Woodings	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**

