

# The Service for the Lord's Day



25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sept. 24, 2017

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

## Assemble in God's Name

We joyfully welcome you to worship this morning!  
All are invited to use the Prayer and Prelude as a time of silent preparation.

### Prayer of Reflection

Ted Loder (adapted)

O God of stunning surprises and uncanny support,  
your foolishness is our hope,  
your lavishness our sustenance,  
your toughness our encouragement,  
your gentleness our ease and re-creation...  
Even as we pray, we ask you to deepen us in the ways of gratitude,  
of alertness, awareness, imagination, discernment,  
not to celebrate fantasies but to see what is profoundly real:  
blessings so close and constant  
we scarcely notice or name them as such.  
Now before you, with you, we would so see and thank you.

### *Prelude*

*Song of Peace*

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

### *Welcome*

Rev. Carter

### *Moment for Mission* (10:00)

Elder Cornelia McKenna

***\*Call to Worship***

Rev. Strom

Leader: Rejoice, people of God!  
Celebrate the life within you, and Christ's presence in your midst!

People: Our eyes shall be opened.  
The present will have new meaning  
and the future will be bright with hope!

Leader: Rejoice, people of God!  
God invites you to participate in the fulfillment of the kingdom.

People: We place ourselves before God's throne of grace,  
that we may be touched and filled  
by the power of God's transforming spirit.

Leader: Let's worship God together!

***\*Hymn #1***

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

Nicaea

***\*Invitation to Confess***

***\*Prayer of Confession***

It seems we cannot decide, Cloud of Glory.  
We say we will live to serve others,  
but mostly end up meeting only our own needs.  
We claim to live in a way that honors Christ,  
but our loyalty to Jesus' ways can be hard to witness  
at work or in school,  
with neighbors and those different from us.  
We believe that the gospel can transform lives,  
but we don't see ourselves among those  
in need of transformation..

Forgive us, Presence of Peace.  
Instead of grumblers,  
may we be ambassadors of grace.  
Instead of complaints,  
may we carry compassion to the hurting.  
Instead of pessimists,  
may we be coworkers with Jesus Christ,  
reaching out to bring the kingdom of God to each and all.

- silent prayers of confession -

***\*Assurance of Grace***

Leader: Hear the good news of the Gospel: there is no ranking in God's kingdom.  
God graces everyone with the gifts of mercy, restoration, and new life.

People: God has kept the covenant. We have been forgiven—  
made new—made free! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*\*Response to Grace*

O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my dear Re-deem-er's praise,  
To God all glo-ry, praise, and love be now and ev-er given  
the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of God's grace!  
by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heaven.

GTG: 610

*\*Passing of the Peace*

Leader: Having received the gift of peace through Christ,  
People: we now have something precious to share.  
Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.  
People: And also with you!

- All are invited to share the "peace" of Christ with one another -

- Children are invited to come forward -

*\*Children's Message* (10:00)

- Children, age 4 - grade 5, are invited to the Chapel for Children's Church -

## Proclaim God's Word

*Prayer for Illumination*

Elder Kevin McKenna

*Scripture Reading*

Romans 15: 1-6 (Pew Bible p. 163, N.T.)

Leader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word;

People: Thanks be to God!

*Scripture Reading*

Matthew 20: 1-16 (Pew Bible pp. 21-2, N.T.)

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture,

For the Word of God among us,

For the Word of God within us,

People: Thanks be to God!

*Sermon*

Time To Make A Difference -Part 3  
"Time to Let Go of the Illusion of Fairness"

## Respond in Thanks & Faith

*\*Hymn #757* (10:00)

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

Kingsfold

*\*Affirmation of Faith* (10:00)

*The Belhar Confession* (10.7)

We believe

- that God has revealed God’s self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
- that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

### *Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### *Call to Commitment*

*Offertory* (10:00)

*Roll Down, Justice!*

Mark Miller

There’s a voice, strong and clear, ringing out far and near,  
“Let justice roll down, let justice roll down!”  
Like the rush of a stream, comes a powerful dream,  
Let justice roll down, justice rolls down!  
Let the earth be restored, ev’ry soul be reformed;  
Let the healing renew, creation reborn.  
Here in this sacred space with the strength of God’s grace,  
Let justice roll down, justice rolls down!  
Roll down, justice! Roll, like an ever flowing stream.  
Let your heart soar, open the doors wide,  
Let your mind be transformed, let it be opened by love.  
On this glorious day give us courage, we pray,  
That justice rolls down, let justice roll down.

Let the vision take flight and God will delight  
As the waters flow down, justice abounds!  
Roll down, justice! Roll, like an ever flowing stream.

Congregation:  
Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace.  
Streams of justice, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

**\*Doxology**

Tallis' Canon

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be-  
low; praise God a-bove, ye heavenly host; Cre - a-tor, Christ, and Ho-ly Ghost.

GTG: 675

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: Loving and righteous God, you are overwhelmingly generous to us,  
and to all who serve in your kingdom.

People: Open our eyes and hearts to the joy of giving until  
we are as generous as to others as you have been to us.

**\*Hymn #765**

"Song of Hope"

Argentina

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Trumpet Tune in E

David Johnson (1922-1987)

\*Congregation standing, as able.

\*\*Large print bulletins & hymnals and hearing assistance devices are available;  
please ask a deacon (with a red nametag) for assistance.

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**THE TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

400 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204

www.towsonpres.org 410.823.6500 tpc@towsonpres.org

Ministers

Pastor, Senior

Pastor, Associate

Director of Music and Organist

Director of Children and Family Ministry

Administrative Coordinator

Business Administrator

Director, Towson Presbyterian Preschool

Childcare Coordinator

Sexton

Pastor Emeritus

All the members of the church

The Rev. Rob Carter

The Rev. Joel Strom

Stephen Harouff

Jeness Hall

Tara Flynn Runge

Kathryn Bojanowski

Leslie Foretich

Kati Kruger

Walter Austin

The Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole

**Our Mission:**

Towson Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith  
growing as disciples of Christ

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