



People: We experience God's presence that inspires our witness,  
and equips our ministries.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord!

*\*Hymn #336*

*"We Gather Together"*

Kremser

*\*Invitation to Confess*

*\*Litany of Confession*

Leader: There is a richness here –  
a gorgeous, flowing richness of God's unending abundance.  
But that doesn't mean God's abundance guides us.

People: Our ways—the paths we prefer to travel—  
speak of something different:  
of lack;  
of fear;  
of something other than an acknowledgement of  
God's endless and beautiful river of grace.

Leader: But how do we step into that river of richness and abundance  
when we fear it could be too costly?

People: Do we trust the current of God's generous gifts?  
Or do we turn from the river,  
unable to trust in God's invitation?

Leader: When we turn from God's abundance,  
unwilling to trust in God's provisions,  
we lose the joy God desires for us to find in generosity;  
and something else begins to reign over us.

People: Then, what's left?

Leader: Now is the time—now is the time to consider  
just how we distrust God's abundance.

People: Now is the time to begin something new.  
Now is the time is the time to live into trust  
and spend ourselves freely, joyfully, generously.

*- silent reflection and confession -*

*\*Assurance of Grace*

Leader: As God dresses creation in wonder, so you are clothed in grace;  
as God pours out abundance upon the earth, so you are blessed with  
peace and joy.

People: Thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder,  
for mercy. We are blessed, forgiven, and freed to spend  
ourselves in response to God's goodness!

*\*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)

Cherub Choir

- Children through Middle School are invited to the Education Wing -

## Proclaim God's Word

*Prayer for Illumination*

Deacon Ann Phillips

*Scripture Reading*

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 (Pew Bible p 205, N.T.)

Leader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word;

People: Thanks be to God!

*Scripture Reading*

Matthew 25: 14-30 (Pew Bible pp. 28-9, 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*

"Risks Worth Taking"

## Respond in Thanks & Faith

*\*Hymn #707* (10:00)

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

Hall

### *\*Affirmation of Faith*

Confession of Belhar (10.5)

We believe:

- that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

### *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*

Elder Carol Appleby

#### *Offertory*

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Jason McCoy

*Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;  
All is safely gathered in, ere, the winter storms begin;  
God, the Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.  
All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,  
All the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,  
All the spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,  
All that lib'ral autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores.  
These to thee, our God, we owe, source from whence all blessings flow,  
And for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise.  
Come, then thankful people, come! Raise the song of harvest home!*

### *\*Doxology*

Tallis' Canon

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

GTG: 675

### *\*Prayer of Dedication*

Leader: O God, in love for you, in love for your people, in love for your creation,  
we have come and grown and served; and what a delight it has been!  
On this day, we have come before your table with gifts—a bountiful  
feast of time and service, sacrifice and harvest, all given in response to  
your grace made real and love come down.

People: We praise you, Lord, for the abundant gifts of the  
Intergenerational Garden this past year.

We lift our thanks for the fruits it produced  
that fed the hungry and food insecure among us.  
We lift our praise for the time and outreach of each  
and every gardener—for their sweat and toil,  
their labor of love for you, your creation, and your  
people!

Leader: *We dedicate the fruits of the garden,  
and the gifts we bring today, all to your glory.*

People: Use our gifts, O Lord. Use us.

**\*Hymn #643**                      “Now Thank We All Our God”                      Nun Danket Alle Gott

***\*Charge & Benediction***

Leader: *Go now as God’s joyful, generous people:*

People: ready to serve;  
eager to give;  
delighted to love!

**Postlude**                      “Now Thank We all Our God” from Cantata No. 79  
Bach/arr. Virgil Fox (1912-1980)

\*Congregation standing, as able.

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

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**THE TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

400 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204  
www.towsonpres.org 410.823.6500 tpc@towsonpres.org

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|--|--------------------------------|
| Ministers                                | All the members of the church  |
| Pastor, Senior                           | The Rev. Rob Carter            |
| Pastor, Associate                        | The Rev. Joel Strom            |
| Director of Music and Organist           | Stephen Harouff                |
| Director of Children and Family Ministry | Jenness Hall                   |
| Administrative Coordinator               | Tara Flynn Runge               |
| Business Administrator                   | Kathryn Bojanowski             |
| Director, Towson Presbyterian Preschool  | Leslie Foretich                |
| Childcare Coordinator                    | Kyanne Fields                  |
| Sexton                                   | Walter Austin                  |
| Pastor Emeritus                          | 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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TPC is a PC(USA) *Earth Care Congregation* and...

TPC is a member of the *Covenant Network* (striving for a fully inclusive church).

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