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TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive ~ Curious ~ Compassionate ~ Courageous

Service of Worship

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

November 1, 2026 || 10:00 a.m.

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Assemble in God's Name

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

Prayerful Reflection Christopher Ney, *Worship Ways* (*adapted*)

Gracious and eternal God,
You invite us to a banquet
overflowing with your good gifts.
Let us open our eyes
to behold our blessings.
Let us share your abundance
with no fear of scarcity.
Let us give and receive
without counting any cost.
Help us see the world as you created it to be,
as you created us to be.

Prelude *Toccata and Fuge in D Minor, BWV 565* J.S. Bach
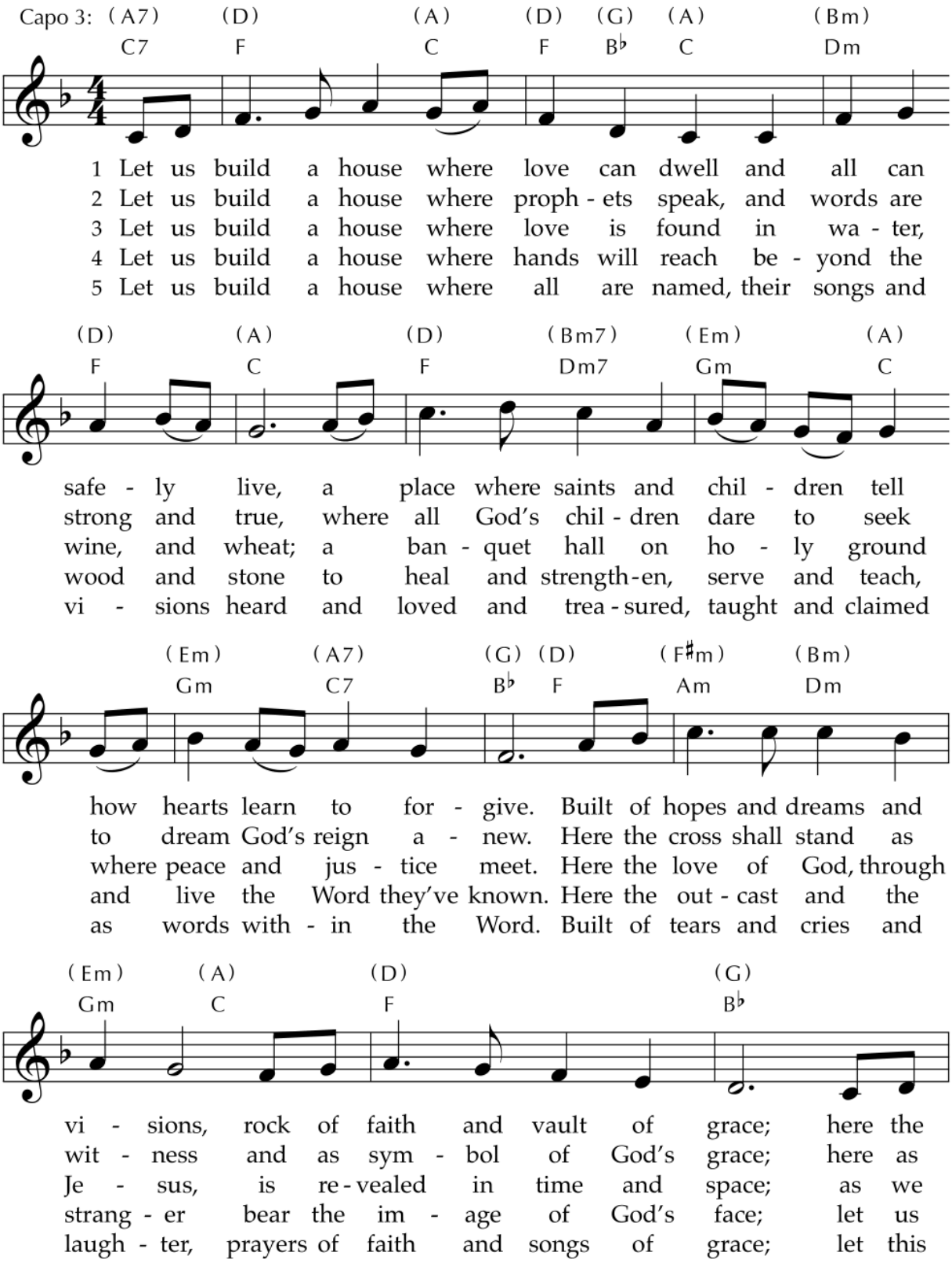
Welcome

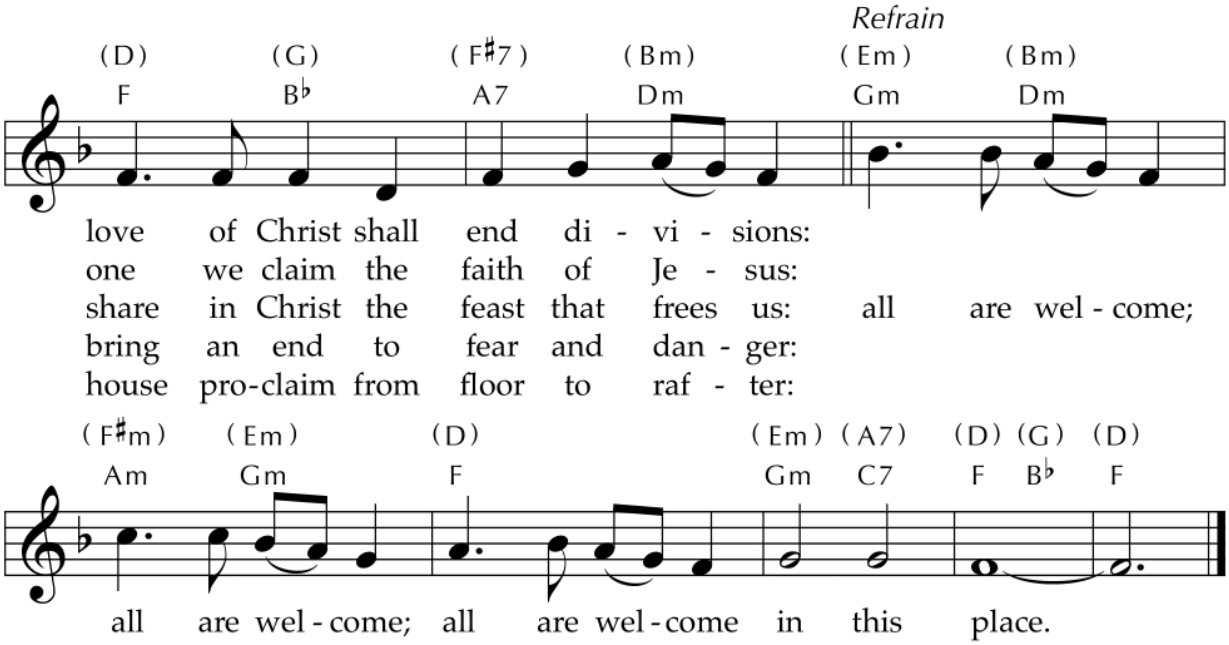
****Call to Worship*** Beth Merrill Neel (*adapted*)

Leader: *Children of God: welcome!*
Welcome to this place of love and grace.

People: **Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.**
Leader: *God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community.*
People: **God invites all of us to share in the Good News:**
Leader: *You are welcome, just as you are.*
People: **We are loved, just as we are.**
Leader: *In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God*

***Hymn #301** *Let Us Build a House* Royal Oak


Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B♭ C Dm
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and
(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C
safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed
(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F♯m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B♭ F Am Dm
how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and
(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B♭
vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



Invitation to Confess

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
You have blessed us with minds to question,
hearts to love,
and lives filled with opportunities to grow.
But we are often slow to listen
and reluctant to reconsider what we think we understand.
We dismiss perspectives that challenge our own,
and cling to answers that feel safe.

Forgive us, Lord.
Give us the humility to recognize how much we have to learn,
the courage to look at familiar things in new ways,
and the wisdom to recognize your presence
in people, places, and possibilities
we might otherwise overlook.
Open our hearts to the needs of others,
that we might share your love and grace
through our words, our actions, and our lives.

~ silent prayers of confession ~
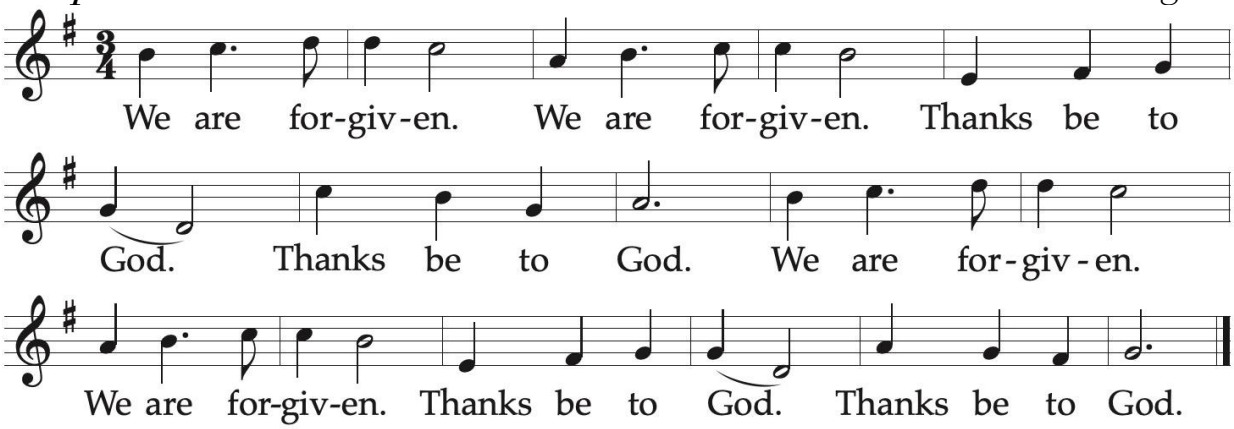
Assurance of Grace

Leader: *Friends, do you know? God's grace is greater than our understanding.*
God's love is wider than we can imagine.

God's mercy is never beyond our reach.

People: **Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed, and set free to grow in faith and share God's love. Amen!**

***Response to Grace** We Are Forgiven



GTG: #447

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: *Christ meets us with a peace the world cannot give.*

People: **A peace that makes room for grace, draws us toward one another, and teaches us to live with hope and compassion.**

Leader: *Friends, let us share it together. May peace be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Livestream Check-In

~ Children are invited to come forward~

Litany of Departing for Whitney Grimm, DCYFM

Leader: *Whitney, we have been blessed by your leadership and fellowship in the gospel with us and your service to Christ. You have faithfully led and cared for the children, youth, and family ministries of our community. You have helped form and shape us as you shared the love and grace of God with us.*

People: **God has blessed you and made you a blessing in our life together. We thank God for all we have experienced and shared together. While we will miss you, we rejoice in the new ways God is calling you, and celebrate that, wherever you go, you will bless others as you have blessed us.**

Leader: *Let us pray.*

People: **Faithful God, keep, preserve, and protect Whitney, Eric, and Levi all their days. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may they be salt of the earth and light for the world. Lead them to new**

ministries and bless them as they go, secure in the faith that binds us forever in the body of Christ.

Children's Message

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson 2 Kings 5: 1-15 Pew Bible p. 336 OT

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.
People: Thanks be to God
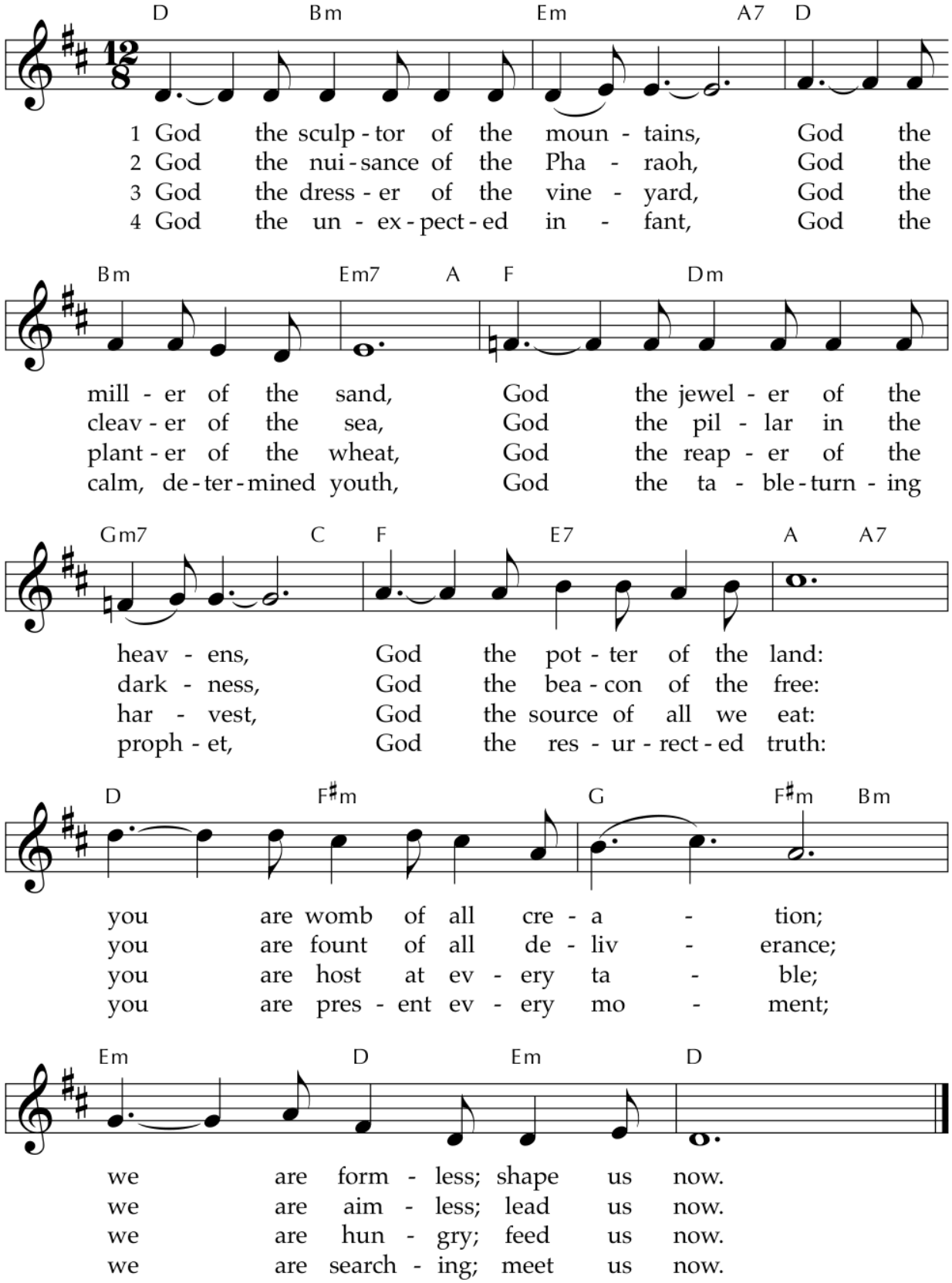
John 6: 60-69 Pew Bible p. 99 NT

For the word of God Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon That's Not God!
De- and Reconstructing Faith—Part 3:
"The God We Hope For"

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Hymn #5 *God, the Sculptor of the Mountains* Jennings-Houston



Offering Our Gifts to God

Ways to offer financial gifts

- Towsonpres.org – click the orange "Give" button at top of the page
- Text a dollar amount to 833-218-4418
- Drop off or mail check to the church
- Scan this QR code

Offertory *Behold, How Good* Michael John Trotta

Sacrament of Communion

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: *May the God of new life be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: **We lift them to God.**

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the God we love.*

People: **We freely give God thanks and praise.**

(*The prayer continues…*)

The Institution
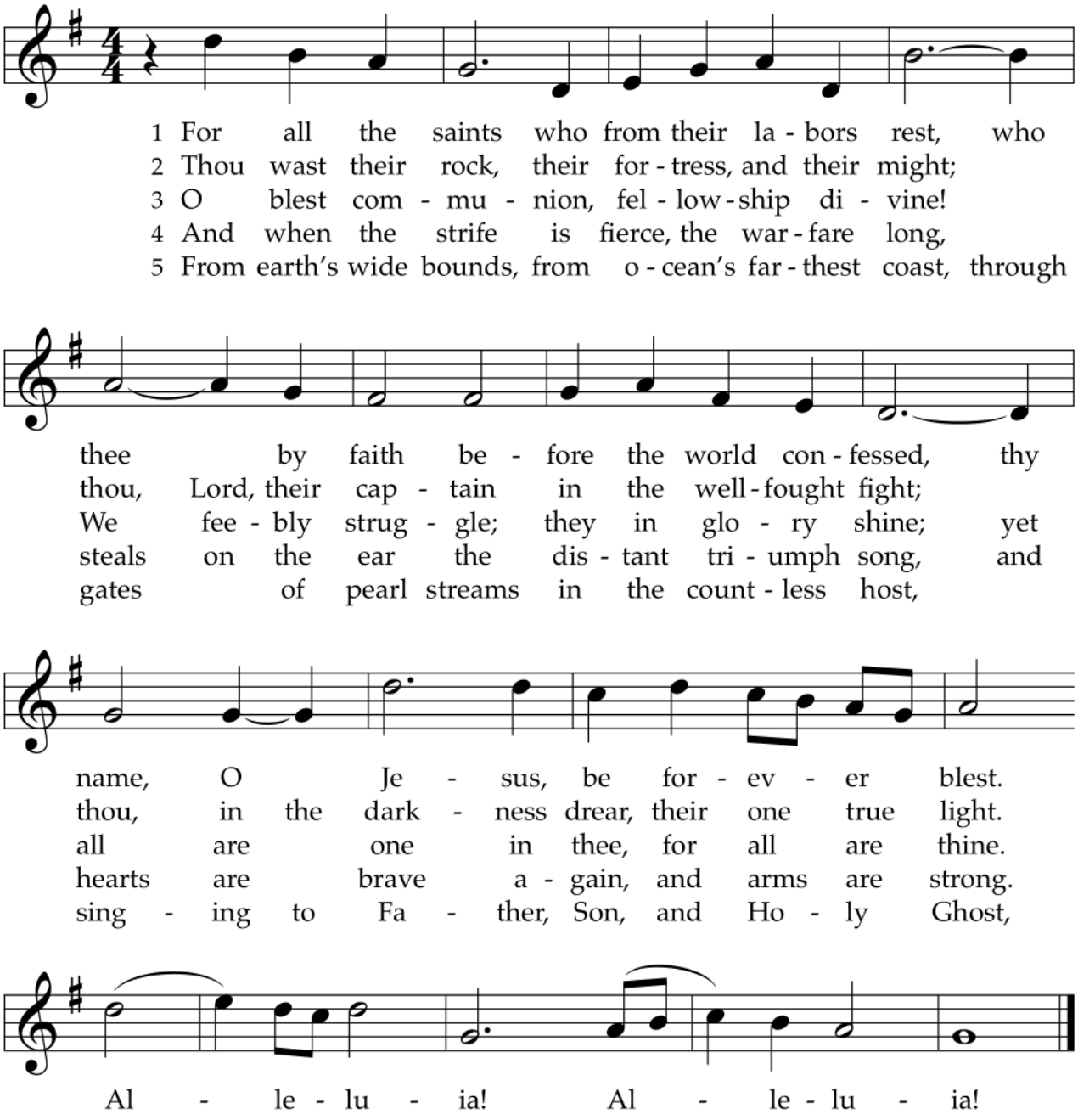
The Communion of the People

Jesus welcomes **all** *to his feast of grace. At this time, you are invited to his table, where you will receive a piece of gluten-free bread to dip into the cup (w/ juice) and then consume. Sealed allergy-friendly wafers and mini-cups are available on the table for those with dietary restrictions. If you wish to remain seated, please raise your hand and a server will bring the table to you.*

The Prayer of Response

Almighty-yet-Humble Lord, we give thanks for
your welcome, your meal, your gifts, your grace.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and send us into the world
to proclaim your kingdom,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn #326 *For All the Saints* Sine Nomine



***Benediction**

Postlude *Prelude on "Sine Nomine"* Matthew Corl

Towson Presbyterian Church

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www.towsonpres.org || on socials @TowsonPres

Ministers	All members of the church
Pastor, Senior	Rev. Rob Carter
Pastor, Associate	Rev. Joel Strom
Director of Music and Organist	Stephen Harouff
Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry	Whitney Grimm
Director of Communications & Connections	Andy Koo
Business Administrator	Kathryn Bojanowski
Mission Coordinator	Rev. Dr. David Britt
Administrative Assistant	Barbara Patrick
Sexton	Walter Austin
Parish Associate	Rev. Dr. Harold Cahill
Parish Associate	Rev. Mary Gaut
Parish Affiliate	Rev. Mark Smiley
Pastor Emeritus	Dr. George Gray Toole

Our Mission:

Towson Presbyterian Church is called to cultivate curious disciples of Christ who grow in faith, strive for justice, care for creation, and embody God's inclusive love.

Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) || Certified Earth Care Congregation || Affiliated with the Covenant Network of Presbyterians (seeking full equity for LGBTQ+ people in the life and ministry of the Church)

New Here? Welcome—*just as you are.*

We're so glad you're here! Whether you're exploring faith for the first time, new to the area, asking questions, or returning after time away, you are genuinely welcome at TPC.

To connect with us or learn more, scan this QR code to complete a virtual Connect Card (or fill out a printed card from the pew rack), or stop by the Welcome Kiosk outside the sanctuary to receive a welcome gift! You can also use it to join our email mailing list and stay up to date on church news and events.

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m., in person and online. Children are always welcome, with a professionally staffed nursery and Church School available during the service. Stay after worship for Coffee Hour at 11:00 a.m.!

We celebrate your presence today and hope this time of worship helps you experience the depth of God's love for you.

Prayer List

Patricia Bickel, Jim Flick, Melvin Heckstall, The Family of Harrison Rosenblum, Janie Hughey, The Family of Will Jones, Barbara Kays, Bob Latshaw, Kathy Lefebvre, Ann Lehwald, The Mercer Family, Julie Mertus, Janet Novak, George Openhym, Travis Parker, Roger Rath, Debbie Spencer, Joan Strout, The Family of Wendy Wallace, The Family of Lee Weber. *Names are listed for three weeks unless otherwise requested.*

TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

Assisting in Worship: Mary Blann, Ross Bregel, Pat Keller*, Jim Kuhlman, Adam Palmer, Patti Rector, Linda Shanks, Jeffrey Tobian

Prayer Request || We lift our prayers and resurrection faith.
Please hold Harrison Rosenblum and the Rosenblum family in your prayers upon the passing of Harrison's father last week.
Please hold the Mercer family in your prayers as they grieve the passing of Mark's mother last week.

All Saints Sunday || This morning, during the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving within the communion liturgy, we give special thanks to God for the life and blessings of those from our faith community who have entered the Church Triumphant this past year. We also pray for their loved ones' peace and comfort amid their grief.
Susan Cahill, Walter Cesewski, Michael Haynes, Joyce Nuttall, Roger Roth, Rick Shaw, Mitzi Tyrie, Wendy Wallace, Lee Weber, Robert Younglove.

Thank you, Whitney || Please join us in Thompson Hall following today's service to give thanks for Whitney's faithful ministry and service, and to wish her many blessings as she continues to follow God's call.

Welcome Back, Pastor Joel || We joyfully welcome Joel back following a three-month sabbatical. We hope his time away was filled with rest, reflection, spiritual nourishment and refreshment. Join him after worship next Sunday, Nov 8, when he describes all that his sabbatical entailed.



Peacemaking Action Team Meeting || Today after worship (Library) || All are welcome to join the PAT mtg. after worship in the library and help hone TPC's Anti-Racism Policy that we started in June. We'll review the draft and discuss any changes we would like to make. Scan the QR code to see our current draft.

ACTC Thanksgiving Baskets || Nov. 2-Nov. 15 || Drop Off in Thompson Hall || Each November, we collect Thanksgiving meals for families in need through ACTC. Packing lists are available at towsonpres.org/events or outside the sanctuary. Drop off filled bags beneath the clock in T.H.



Graul's Pickup for Coffee Hour & Sunday Community Lunch || Ongoing || We'd love your help picking up food donations from Graul's Market in Ruxton! More details are available on the sign-up page via the QR code.

TPP Early Enrollment Period || Beginning Monday, November 9 || Families who are members of Towson Presbyterian Church may begin registering.

Book Study: *In the Name of Jesus* by Henri Nouwen || Thru Nov. 9 & 10 || Mondays 7pm or Tuesdays 10am || Zoom || What does Christ-centered leadership look like in a world focused on power, popularity, and control? Join Rev. Harold Cahill for a four-week Zoom book study of Henri Nouwen's *In the Name of Jesus*, exploring leadership rooted in humility, prayer, vulnerability, and service.

P5 Moms Connect Group || Nov. 13, 6:30-8:30pm || 401 West Chesapeake Ave (Bregel Home) || Expecting moms and moms with children through 5th grade are invited to a fun and festive evening of creativity and connection! Join us as we create charcuterie boards, share family traditions, favorite recipes, and entertaining ideas, and reflect on all we have to be thankful for.

Awaiting Advent: Embracing Hope in Poetry, Music & Art || Sundays, Nov. 15 & 22, 11:15am, Chapel || In-person & Zoom || As we prepare for Advent, join David and Patricia Jackson for Embracing Hope, a reflection through poetry, music, and art. Explore how hope has inspired generations, shapes our lives today, and guides us into the future with faith. Available in person & Zoom. Register online!

Monday Night Football #3 - Chargers v. Ravens || Nov. 16th, 8pm || Our monthly gathering is back for another round of football, food, and fellowship! Join us for our third gathering of the season at Jason Fitzsimmons' house as we cheer on the Ravens against the Chargers!



Church Center App || To stay connected in all things here at TPC, scan the QR code to download the TPC Church Center App! You can access event registrations, join groups, view our calendar, and more..