



Earth Sunday

April 21, 2024 || Virtual Campus

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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

Walter Rauschenbusch (*adapted*)

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
for the wide sky, blessed sun, ocean, and streams,
for the towering hills, and the whispering wind.
We thank you for our senses
by which we hear the songs of birds,
and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat,
and taste autumn's fruit,
and smell the breath of spring flowers.
Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty. Amen.

Prelude

Joys Are Flowing Like a River

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome

Introit

Ombra mai fu

G. F. Handel

"Never was a shade of any plant dearer and more lovely, or more sweet."

**Call to Worship*

Third Space (*adapted*)

Leader: O Divine Voice,
People: You sing and the universe comes into being;
Leader: O Divine Breath,
People: You breathe and all things spring to life;
Leader: O Divine Word,

People: You call and creation is sustained;
 Leader: O Divine Flesh,
 People: You are born among us,
 and the Creator is clothed in creation;
 Leader: O Divine Spirit,
 People: You fill all that has been formed;
 Leader: O Divine Life,
 People: You are the pulse of all that is.
 Let us worship God!

**Hymn #15*

All Creatures of Our God and King
Stanzas 1-3, 6

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Unison

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
 2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
 3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

Harmony

and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 ous of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison

O broth - er sun with gold - en beam, O sis - ter moon
 O sis - ter wa - ter, flow - ing clear, make mu - sic for
 Dear moth - er earth, who day by day un - folds such bless -
 Christ bears your bur - dens and your fears; so, e - ven in

Harmony

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Invitation to Confess*

**Prayer of Confession*

from PCUSA Mission Agency - Earth Care

Gracious and Merciful God,
in your presence we confess our sins.
Although Christ is risen from the grave
and has shattered the power of death,
we are still held captive by fear and doubt.
We have neglected the poor and the hungry,
and ignored the cries of the oppressed.
We have pursued profits and pleasures
that harm the land and pollute the waters,
leaving this world depleted and damaged
for future generations.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.
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 Christ Jesus, the risen Lord. Amen.

~ silent reflection & confession ~

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News!
The Gospel reveals the depths of God's love,
and the boundlessness of God's grace to you.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven
and blessed with freedom, purpose, and fullness.

Response to Grace



Words and Music by John L. Bell, The Iona Community.

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**Passing of the Peace*

Leader: On the evening of Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were gathered
in fear and sadness, wondering how everything had gone so wrong.
People: But the risen Christ appeared in their midst, saying,
"Peace be with you."
Leader: Friends, may the peace of the risen Christ with you.
People: And also with you!

~ All worshipping virtually are invited to greet and share peace with others in the "Comments" section. ~

Children's Message

Proclaim God's Word

Anthem

Look at the World

John Rutter

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Genesis 1:26-31; Psalm 24

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God

Scripture Lesson

Mark 10:42-45

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

"The Earth is the Lord's"

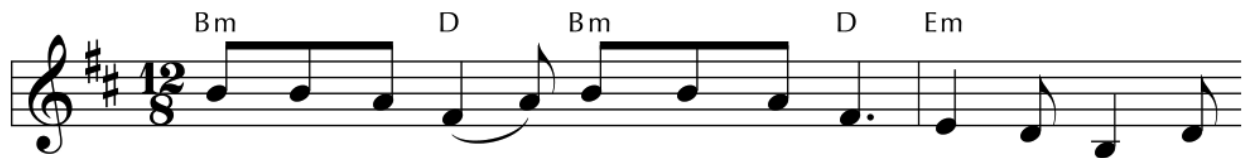
Rev. Morton Harris

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Hymn #680

Soft Rains of Spring Flow
Stanza 1 – choir; Stanzas 2-3 – all

Pcocs



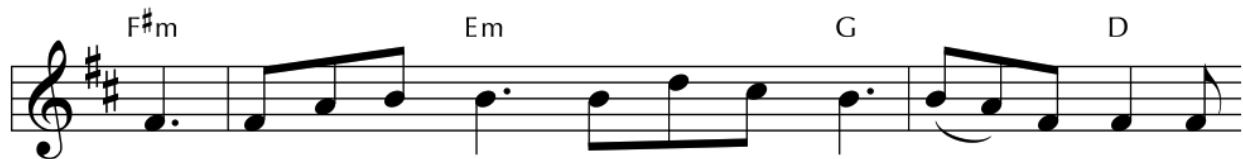
1 Soft rains of spring flow through the fields; earth a-wakes and
2 Ten - der young shoots, green in the sun, glis - ten with the
3 Our hearts are filled: God gives us grace; o - ver-flow - ing



greet a new year. Deep with - in the soil of our hearts seeds of
beau - ty of spring. God will watch and care for each one, bring the
we give our praise. We come hum - bly bring-ing our thanks, bring our



love be - gin to take root. Sum-mer brings floods, tem - pest and
growth and strength to bear fruit, speak-ing the word, quench-ing their
hearts and of - fer them back. Our har - vest here on God's rich



storm; sun breaks forth; birds tend their young. Then the day of
thirst, hear-ing their prayer, feed - ing their souls. God will love and
earth, all is a gift God free - ly makes. Lord and Sav - ior,



har - vest will come, when we gath - er all that God gives.
care for each one, till the bright day har - vest will come.
we sing your praise, thank and bless you all of our days.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Ways to offer financial gifts:

- Towsonpres.org – click orange “Give” button at top of page
- Text “CheerfulGiver” (one word; no spaces; case sensitive) to 73256
- Drop off or mail check to the church
- Scan this QR code →



Anthem

Easter Hymn of Promise

arr. Joel Raney

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.

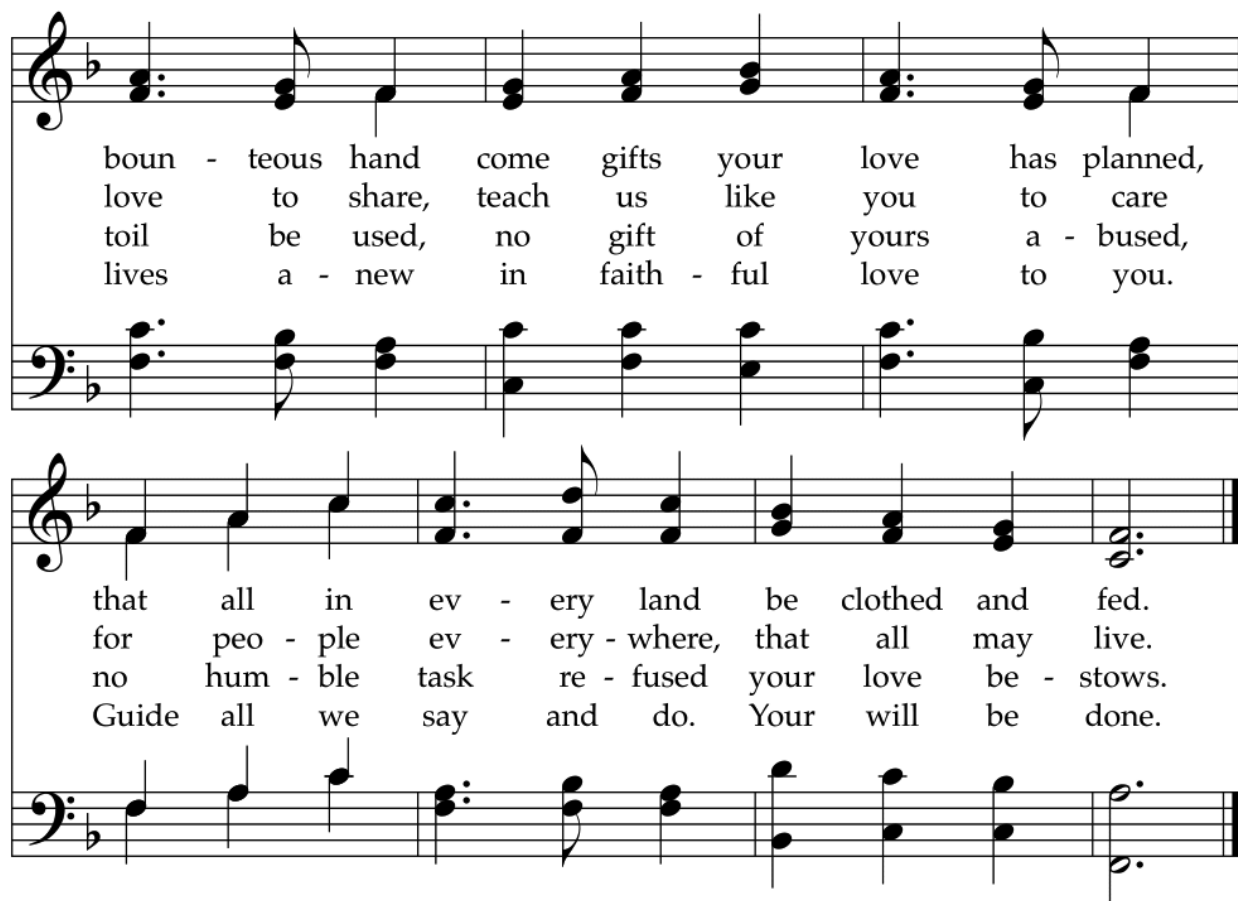
Hymn #714

God of the Fertile Fields

Italian Hymn

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

**Benediction*

Postlude

Varriations on "Lasst Uns Erfreuen" (excerpt)

Denis Bedard

Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive ~ Curious ~ Compassionate ~ Courageous

www.towsonpres.org || 410-823-6500 || @TowsonPres

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Senior Pastor

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Director of Music and Organist

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Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Director of Communications and Connections

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All Members of the Church

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Stephen Harouff

Kathryn Bojanowski

Jenness Hall

McKenzie Allison

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Amanda Barton

Sexton
Parish Associate
Parish Associate
Parish Associate
Parish Emeritus

Walter Austin
Rev. Harold Cahill
Rev. Mary Gaut
Rev. Roger Rice
Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole

Our Mission:

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

TPC is a PC(USA) *Earth Care Congregation*,
and a member of the *Covenant Network* (striving for a fully inclusive church).

New Here? Welcome—*just as you are.*

We're so glad you're here! We hope you find meaning in our worship and connection within our community of faith. TPC offers two worship opportunities on Sundays: 10:00am in-person and 10:00am live-stream via Facebook, YouTube, and towsonpres.org.

While children are whole-heartedly welcome at all TPC's worship services, our professionally staffed nursery is available for children 0–4 (see a deacon with a red nametag for directions).

We'd cherish the chance to connect with you. If you feel led, please fill out a visitor form at towsonpres.org/contact, so we can get to know you! We appreciate your presence here today, and we hope you are blessed by your time worshiping with us.

Prayer List:

Bob Adams, Laura Adams Wentling, Owen Bojanowski, Jim Flick, Aldean Howard, Ann Lehwald, John Lewis, Julie Mertus, Julie Morris, Peter, Phillip Pugh, Patty Rath, Janice Searles, Zoe Strassner, Calvin Symons Ashley Tamayo, Wendy and Barbara Taylor, Sue Thompson, Mitzie Tyrie.

TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

Assisting in Worship || Pat Keller, Jim Kuhlman, Judith Rietz, Joyce Nuttall, Bill Sherman, Ruth Anne Randolph, Shirley Albert, Ross Bregel.

Welcome Rev. Morton Harris || O. Morton Harris grew up in a Presbyterian Church in Martinsville, VA where the thought of becoming a Presbyterian minister never entered his mind. He studied Biomedical Engineering with a double major in mathematics, graduating magna cum laude from Duke University in 1977. During those college years, he became interested in the scholarly aspects of his Christian faith, and soon went to Union Theological Seminary. After graduating with a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1981, he began to serve in the pastoral ministry. Congregations in Lebanon and Castlewood VA, Norfolk VA, Cumberland MD, and Columbia MD continued to teach him the meaning of faith for 40 years. In 1986, Morton married the Rev. Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris. In October 2023, Morton and Sue retired from 18 years as co-pastors of the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, in Columbia MD, where they still make their home. Morton's most persistent interests are still mathematics and science, sci-fi, gardening, a brown tabby cat named Katie, and mostly, Sue.

Alleyway Closure || Phase four of our masonry repair project includes repointing the stonework along the back wall of our building. Please note that beginning May 1, the alleyway (connecting Highland Ave. to Central Ave.) will be closed completely for the duration of the project. Please use the Chesapeake Ave. or Central Ave. entrances in the meantime. Thank you for your patience as we continue to care for our property!

Parenting Forum: Head, Heart, and Hands || **Sundays, 11:20am–12:30pm, Apr. 28, and May 5** || In the Library, as part of the 4th Soil Parenting Project, all parents are invited to these forum-style discussions led by seasoned parents of (now) adult children.

ACTC Food Drive || **Now–Tuesday, Apr. 30** || Our Mission Outreach Committee invites you to support the Assistance Center of Towson Churches by donating these much-needed items (donation bins are in the Narthex and outside of Thompson Hall): *Juice boxes, mac and cheese, boxed potatoes, hearty canned soup, canned fruits, canned vegetables, and canned beans.*

Book Study: The Screwtape Letters || **Tuesdays, 7:00–8:30pm, Apr. 30–May 21** || Join the Rev. Harold Cahill on Zoom each week to study another book written by C.S. Lewis. The Zoom link can be found at towsonpres.org/adults.

Bible Study: Daniel || Mondays, 10:00–11:00am, Now–May 20 || Join Harold Cahill on Zoom each Monday to study the Book of Daniel.

TPC at the Towson Springfest || Saturday, May 4, 10:00am–8:00pm, and Sunday, May 5, 1:00–6:00pm || Join the Community Outreach and Engagement Committee (CORE) as we get to know our neighbors and represent our church at a local event. Sign up on the front page of towsonpres.org.

New Members Class || Sunday, May 5, 11:20am–12:30pm and Monday, May 6, 7:00–8:30pm || Join us in-person after worship or virtually the following evening for a no-obligation opportunity to ask questions, meet other newcomers to TPC, learn more about our community of faith, and hear from our pastors.

Steel Drum Band Concert || Friday, May 10, 7:30–9:00pm || Back by popular demand, the Board of Deacons will be hosting a concert featuring the Catonsville High School Steel Drum Band in Thompson Hall. This is a free event with no ticketing or registration, and while beverages will be provided, we ask that each family brings a snack or dessert to share. Suitable island-themed attire is also suggested!

TPC This Week

Sun 4/21:	10:00am 10:15am 11:00am 11:00am 12:00pm 5:30pm	Worship (Sanctuary and Livestream) Church School (Children's Classrooms) Coffee Hour (Thompson Hall) Blue Jean Sunday (Start in Thompson Hall) Sunday Community Lunch (Thompson Hall) Youth Group (Youth Room)
Mon 4/22:	10:00am	Daniel Bible Study (Zoom)
Tue 4/23:	10:30am 2:00pm 7:30pm	Staff Mtg. (Library) Parish Visitor Training (Library) Handbells Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Wed 4/24:	7:00pm	Session Mtg. (Zoom)
Thu 4/25:	7:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)