

***Hymn #107** “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” Rejoice, Rejoice

***Lighting the Third Candle of Advent—Joy** The Crawley Family

Leader: Upside-down God, you announce your coming with such exciting news:

the hungry will eat their fill,
the oppressed will dance in newfound freedom;
Yet you also proclaim your mission with hard news:
the well-fed will go hungry,
the powerful will lose their status.

People: We find ourselves squirming
as we acknowledge our participation
in structures that oppress and marginalize.

Leader: Help us accept and proclaim the coming of your Son
as truly good news.

People: Give us the courage to set aside our privilege,
and help bring about this upside-down world,
where everyone can sing together for joy.

- Candle of Joy is lit -

Leader: The desert shall rejoice and blossom.
Waters shall break forth in the wilderness.
The God who can transform the dry lands
can also transform the desert of our lives.

People: Abundant grace is ours
from the God who turns sorrow and sighing
into joy and gladness.

Leader: Be born anew in our hearts and in our world.

People: Come, Lord Jesus. Come.

***Response to Grace**



Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to thee; here,
Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner pres - ence
feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

GTG: #93

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: In steadfast hope, we prepare the way for the one named,
“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.” May the peace of our coming Lord 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

- Children through Grade 5 are invited to the Education Wing -

Proclaim God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 35: 1-11
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.

Kevin McKenna
Pew Bible p. 663, O.T.

Advent Cantata

A Ceremony of Carols Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

1. Procession
2. Wolcum Yole!
3. There is no Rose
- 4a. That yongē child
- 4b. Balulalow
5. As dew in Aprille
6. This little Babe
7. Interlude
8. In Freezing Winter Night
9. Spring Carol
10. Deo Gracias
11. Recession

Respond in Thanks & Faith

***Affirmation of Faith**

from Song of Faith, United Church of Canada (adapted)

We sing of God,
who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

We sing of God,
who knows our prayers of deepest longing
and enfolds our concerns and confessions,
transforming us and the world.

We offer worship
as an outpouring of gratitude and awe
and a practice of opening ourselves
to God’s still, small voice of comfort,
to God’s rushing whirlwind of challenge.

Through word, music, art, and sacrament,
in community and in solitude,
God changes our lives, our relationships, and our 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

Offertory “Andante” from Sonata No. 2 for violin J.S. Bach/trans. Marcel Grandjany

***Doxology**

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: God of Advent Joy, we sing our praise and rejoice.
You are not done redeeming this world.

People: We ask that you take and use these gifts—and our lives—
for the sake of your coming kingdom. Amen.

***Hymn #86**

“The People Who Walked in Darkness” Isaiah 9

***Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude on “Sleepers Awake” Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

*Worshippers are invited to stand as able.

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

The Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive - Curious - Compassionate - Courageous

400 W. Chesapeake Ave., Towson, Maryland 21204

www.towsonpres.org 410.823.6500 tpc@towsonpres.org

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 & Communications Coordinator	Tara Flynn Runge
Business Administrator	Kathryn Bojanowski
Director, Towson Presbyterian Preschool	Leslie Foretich
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

TPC is a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation,

& a member of the Covenant Network (striving for an open and affirming Church).

Let’s connect:

Facebook @TowsonPres || Instagram @TowsonPres

Please pray for: Bob Adams, Shirley Albert, Ellen Barnhart, Mary Grace Byrne, Cindy Cole (JoAnn Brooks’ sister), Jim Dawson, Barbara Davis, Barbara & John Dillon, Pat Hoopes, Mike Just, Ann Lehwald, Julie Mertus, Jane Messimer, Gloria Roberts, Dianne Thompson, Stuart Tyrie (Mitzie’s son) and Joye Wilhide. Names remain on prayer list for four weeks, unless otherwise requested.

New Here? Welcome—just as you are.

We're grateful you're here! Please take a moment to note your name and email address in the sign-in pads on the inside of each pew.

We'd cherish the chance to connect with you. A TPC Outreach Minister will be standing next to the Communion Table after the 10 a.m. service to welcome any who'd like to learn a bit more about TPC. Outreach Ministers also staff two "Welcome Centers," located outside the rear of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall. You're warmly invited to participate in any church events or programs of interest.

For your worshipping comfort, large-print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available at the rear of the sanctuary. Deacons (wearing red nametags) are happy to assist you.

While children are whole-heartedly welcome within all of worship, our professionally-staffed nursery is available (see a deacon for directions). Church school (Pre-K – Grade 5) begins after the Children's Message.

Please join us after the 10 a.m. service for refreshments at our "Coffee Hour," located in the Fellowship Hall (bottom level next to the parking lot).

Thank you, again, for the blessing of your presence this morning.

All God's People

Alternative Gift Market || Today || 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. || Fellowship Hall || Purchase gifts that bless in all kinds of ways!

Poinsettia Order Form || Available at towsonpres.org and the Welcome Centers || Forms with payment are due to Tara Runge by Dec. 15.

Church-wide Book Study: We Make the Road by Walking || This week we read Ch. 16 – "Keep Herod in Christmas."

Podcasts || Joel & Rob offer a weekly podcast on a chapter of We Make the Road by Walking || New this week—Ch. 16 || Towsonpres.org > Explore > Podcasts

Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Family Service || Interested in participating? Contact Jenness Hall || Rehearsal is Dec. 22 at 11:15 am. || Children arrive at 3:30 on Dec. 24.

Christmas Eve Services || 4 p.m. Family Service || 8 p.m. & 10 p.m. Services of Lessons and Carols with candlelight.

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser || Help support the 2020 HS Mission Trip to WV and purchase a beautiful Christmas wreath at towsonpres.org.

Youth Ministry || Tonight – Caroling and Christmas Parties || 4-7 p.m. || Pick up for HS is at the Bickel's home, while MS is at TPC. || Youth Group does not meet Dec. 22 and 29.

Diner's Club || Make new and deepen long-time friendships || Participants share three meals together from January – March in Small Groups. One member hosts with everyone dividing up preparation of the meal. Register at towsonpres.org.

Today at TPC

Assisting in Worship today are: Beth Bugg, Sandi Burt, Joseph Clark, Cass Mairs, Viraj Mehta, Liza Salemi, Bill Sherman, and Liz White.

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

9:00 a.m.	Alternative Gift Market – Fellowship Hall
9:45 a.m.	Noah's Nursery (infants to 3-year olds)
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary
10:15 a.m.	Church School
11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour – Fellowship Hall
11:30 a.m.	Cherubs/ Children's Choir – Room 212/ Choir Room
12:00 p.m.	SCL – Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m.	Intergenerational Caroling Event
6:00 p.m.	Chili Dinner – Fellowship Hall
	Middle School Youth Christmas Gathering – Youth room
	High School Christmas gathering – Bickel Home

Alternative Gift Market || 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

We welcome Jacqueline Pollauf, harpist, to worship this morning. An active recitalist, she always seeks to explore the versatility of the harp. Her recent venues include Carnegie Hall and the National Gallery of Art. Jacqueline has been honored with awards from the Maryland State Arts Council and Chamber Music America. In addition to being the director of the Baltimore Harp Camp, Jacqueline is on faculty at the Baltimore School for the Arts, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory.

Intergenerational Christmas Caroling || Today || 4:00-7:00 p.m. || Visit TPC members to spread Holiday cheer || Meet at TPC at 4 || Chili dinner to follow in Fellowship Hall || Register at towsonpres.org to reserve a spot on the bus.

Electronic Giving || Text "CheerfulGiver" (one word; no spaces; case sensitive) to 73256 or scan the QR Code to the right. →



TPC This Week

Monday, December 16
7:00 p.m.

Monday Night Football – TBD

Tuesday, December 17
10:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Staff Meeting – Nook
Prayer Shawl – Nook
Mission Outreach – Library
CFM – Nook
Handbells – Choir Room

Wednesday, December 18
7:00 p.m.

Session – Library

Thursday, December 19
9:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

TPC Men's Breakfast – Towson Diner
Scout Troop 729 (B) and 1729 (G) – Youth & Room 212
Third Thursday Choir – Choir Room
Chancel Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, December 22
8:30 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.
11:15 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
12:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Peace
Worship Service – Chapel
Noah's Nursery (infants to 3-year olds)
Worship Service – Sanctuary
Church School
Coffee Hour – Fellowship Hall
Cherubs/ Children's Choir – Room 212/ Choir Room
SCL – Fellowship Hall

Towson Presbyterian Church



Dec. 15, 2019 || 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent – Joy!

Assemble in God's Name

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

Prayerful Reflection

Joanna Harader

Holy God of Joy,
We rejoice in the reality of who you are.
We live within the joy of your love for us.
Our contentment comes and goes.
Our happiness ebbs and flows.
Our feelings depend upon our circumstances,
our physical health, our brain chemistry.
But our joy is deeply rooted
in our identity as your beloved children.
for which we sing our thanks! Amen.

Prelude

Prelude on "Sleepers Awake"

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Welcome

Rev. Carter

**Call to Worship*

Jenness Hall

Leader: Listen—all creation rejoices!
Can you hear it?
People: **The wilderness and desert are breaking out in song.**
Leader: *The crocus blooms with joyful singing,
the very mountains join in the refrain.*
People: **We join our voices in joy,
worshipping our God
who brings forth a new song in the world.**
Leader: *O God, in these moments of worship we pray you might bless us anew.
Give us ears to hear the melodies of praise that fill the world around us.*
People: **And as we hear the songs,
teach us to sing,
to dance with abandon,
to rejoice in the coming wonders of your grace.**