



Service of Worship Christmas Day

Dec. 25, 2022

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Assemble in God's Name

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It is a joy to welcome you to this special Christmas Day worship service.

Prayerful Reflection

John Birch (*adapted*)

Shout for joy all the whole earth,
and everything within. rejoice!
For Light has come into the world!
The mountains sing and the seas resound
to the praise of your holy name.
Salvation once promised is here on earth!
The angels' song rings in the air;
a child has been born.
Hallelujah! The Savior of the world is here

Prelude

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd

Welcome

Call to Worship

Bread for the Journey, ed. Ruth C. Duck (*adapted*)

Leader: *Away from the noise and stress and ho-ho-ho of the world's Christmas,
we come to this special time amid God's holy presence.*

People: **We come to discover the true joy and peace
that lie beneath the surface of this holy day.**

Leader: *We come to gaze beyond the manger to the man Jesus became,
to prioritize our lives by his teachings and example.*

People: **We come to behold and reconsider the incredible love of God
reaching into our world and each of our lives.**

Leader: *Away from the noise and stress,
we come to worship the Incarnate God of Love.*

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Invitation to Confess

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Thom M. Shuman

Manger-dwelling God,
 We can hear the songs of angels singing,
 but easily tune-out the cries of the needy.
 We can feel the cold breeze of winter's wind,
 but remain unfazed by your Spirit's call to peace.
 We are surrounded by gifts as precious as those brought by the Wise Ones,
 but we struggle to share
 with those from far away places or of other faiths.

Forgive us, Present One.
 We believe in the joy and life Christmas reveals;
 help us believe in you more.
 We hunger for happiness;
 feed us on your peace.
 We long for community and acceptance;
 surround us with our sisters and brothers
 of every place and circumstance,
 that we may strive for the kingdom
 you became flesh to reveal.

- silent reflection and confession -

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: Born that day was grace—for the broken and grieving.
 People: Born that day was hope—for the vulnerable and forgotten.
 Leader: Born that day was love—for each and for all.
 People: Christ is born! The world is redeemed.
 Praise God—Emmanuel!

**Response to Grace*

Isaiah 9

The peo - ple who walked in dark-ness a - wak-en to
 see a great light. The peo - ple who dwelt in the
 land of the shad-ow rise to a star shin-ing bright.
 His name is Won - der-ful, Coun-sel - or, Al-might-y God,
 Fa - ther for - ev - er, Prince of Peace. Peace.

**Passing of the Peace*

Leader: Unto us a child is born,
 unto us a son is given,
 and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
 May the peace of Christ be always with you.
 People: And also with you!

Livestream Check-In

- All worshipping virtually are invited to greet and share peace with others in the "comments" -

Children's Message

Proclaim God's Word

*Prayer for Illumination
 Scripture Reading*

John 1: 1-14
 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 Absurdity of Christmas"

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Hymn #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

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

Gifts of Commitment

Four Ways to Give:

- Online – [Click Here](#)
- Text "CheerfulGiver" (one word; case sensitive) to 73256
- Mail a check to TPC 400 W. Chesapeake Ave, Towson, MD 21204
- Scan this QR Code



**Hymn #132*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive - Curious - Compassionate - Courageous

www.towsonpres.org || on social @TowsonPres

Ministers	All the 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 Ministries	Jenness Hall
Director of Communication & Connections	Alison Raskin
Business Administrator	Kathryn Bojanowski
Administrative Assistant	Mimi Frysiek
Sexton	Walter Austin
Parish Associate	Rev. Mary Gaut
Parish Associate	Rev. Roger Rice
Pastor Emeritus	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 are "here"! We hope you find meaning in our worship and connection within our Virtual Campus.

To learn more about our church, we hope you'll explore our ministries at www.towsonpres.org. You are more than welcome to register for any church event or group, whether it gathers in-person or remotely. Please also join our online community at Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube @TowsonPres.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like additional information, please contact the church office at churchoffice@towsonpres.org or 410-823-6500. Thank you, again, for the blessing of your presence.

Please pray for:

Bob Adams, Laura Adams Wentling, Barbara Davis, William Hanna, Ann McKim, Allison Medrano, Julie Mertus, Ann Phillips, Jack Phillips, Roger and Betty Roth, Jeanette Spratley, Mitzi Tyrie.

TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

Church Office – Dec. 26-31 || TPC's office will have a "skeletal crew" this week. Kathryn Bojanowski will be unavailable; other staff will be out of the office and checking voicemails and emails daily. Volunteers will staff the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Hunger Action Team Holiday Schedule || Please contact [Kimberly Light](#) for more information

- There will be NO SCL today, 12/25 or next Sun. 1/1.
Sunday Community Lunch will resume January 8th
- There will be no Mt. Cal. AME church dinner on Tues. 12/27.
Mt. Cal. AME Church dinner will resume Tuesday 1/3 at 6:00 p.m.

Epiphany Star Sunday || **Sun., Jan. 1st 10:00 a.m.** || The service will be virtual and in-person; no love feast/hymn sing this year – but an extra special coffee hour will follow. Kids (of all ages) are invited to wear pj's!

Virtual Epiphany Star || **Thurs., Jan. 5th 7:30 p.m.** || TPC's Virtual Campus invites all to join us in a Zoom party to receive a star word for 2023. Register on our website.

Ezekiel Bible Study || **Mon., Jan 9th 11:00 a.m.** || Join Rev. Harry Cahill on Zoom to study this powerful book of the Bible. Please register via our website.

Faith, Film, Fellowship || **Sunday., Jan. 15th 5:30 p.m.** || All ages are invited to join us to watch "[The Hate You Give](#)" and then have pizza and a discussion about the film. No need to register!

Grief and the Enneagram || **Sundays 1/15, 1/22, 1/29 11:20 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.** || Join certified enneagram teacher Bev Gorman in TPC's Chapel. The Enneagram teaches there are three centers of intelligence that are being transformed in grief - our thinking, feeling, and moving centers. Through the dark night of grieving, we are invited to return to our divine reflection of God. Join us!

TPC 1st Week of January 2023

Sunday, January 1

9:30 a.m.

Childcare – Noah's Nursery

10:00 a.m.

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual

Monday, January 2

10:00 a.m. 1 Corinthians Bible Study- Zoom
4:00 p.m. Mary, Martha & Me

Tuesday, January 3

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
2:00-9:00 p.m. Peabody Rehearsal
2:00 p.m. WMA Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. The Bible Speaks to You- Zoom
7:30 p.m. Chancel Handbells Rehearsal – Choir room

Wednesday, January 4

7:00 p.m. Adult Spiritual Formation Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Communication and CORE Meeting

Thursday, January 5

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Friday, January 6

11:00 a.m. Sing with Understanding- FaceBook, YouTube
6:00 p.m. First Fridays- location TBA

Sunday, January 8

9:30 a.m. Childcare – Noah's Nursery
10:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual
Church School – after Children's Message
11:20 a.m. Cherub Choir (Rm. 212) & Children's Choir (Choir Rm.)
12:00 p.m. Sunday Community Lunch
5:30 p.m. Youth Group