



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023 || 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.

Lenten Reflection

Order of the Carmelites (*adapted*)

Lord our God,
You remind us that all our religious practices
mean nothing
if we use them to bend you to our way.
God, help us come to you in humility and repentance,
ready to encounter you in love,
grateful for your gifts,
and seeking your direction—
not our own—
for our lives.

Prelude

Berceuse to the Memory of Louis Vierne

Pierre Cochereau

Welcome

Call to Worship

Beth Merrill Neel (*adapted*)

Leader: *In the light of this day, we have gathered.*
People: **We are one in community,
bringing our questions and our joys.**
Leader: *In the song and silence we will listen –*
People: **What would God have us hear this day?**
Leader: *In our praise and our prayers
we will remember the goodness of God,*
People: **And our call to trust and share that goodness.**
Leader: *Let us worship the Lord!*

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G)
 E^b A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b A^b

1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan - ets, fill the seas and
 2 You have called us to be faith - ful in our life and
 3 God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)
 E^b B^b E^b Cm A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b

spread the plain, mold the moun - tains, fash - ion blos - soms, call forth
 min - is - try. We re - spond in grate - ful wor - ship joined in
 life made new. Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's

(G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)
 A^b E^b B^b E^b A^b E^b B^b

sun - shine, wind, and rain. We, cre - at - ed in your im - age,
 one com - mu - ni - ty. When we blur your gra - cious im - age,
 work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion.

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (G) (A) (D) (G)
 E^b Cm Gm A^b B^b E^b A^b

would a true re - flec - tion be of your jus - tice,
 fo - cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength - ened
 Pol - ish us with lov - ing care. Thus, new crea - tures

(D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A) (D)
 E^b A^b B^b E^b A^b Fm E^b B^b E^b

grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us free.
 as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.
 in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

**Invitation to Confess*
***Litany of Confession*

Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott (*adapted*)

Eternal One,
Your Word, your Spirit
are still speaking to your world,
calling us to live and share the love and grace
you intend for all.

But we've confused unity with uniformity,
and diversity with divisiveness.
We speak and behave as if being a part of your family
means assimilating others to our way of living.
All too often, we compare ourselves to others,
and judge those around us.
as if your grace is for us but not them.

Forgive us, Lord.
We long to change the way we see the world.
We long to lead from faith rather than fear.
Teach us to value challenge.
And empower us to build your kingdom
in creativity and love.

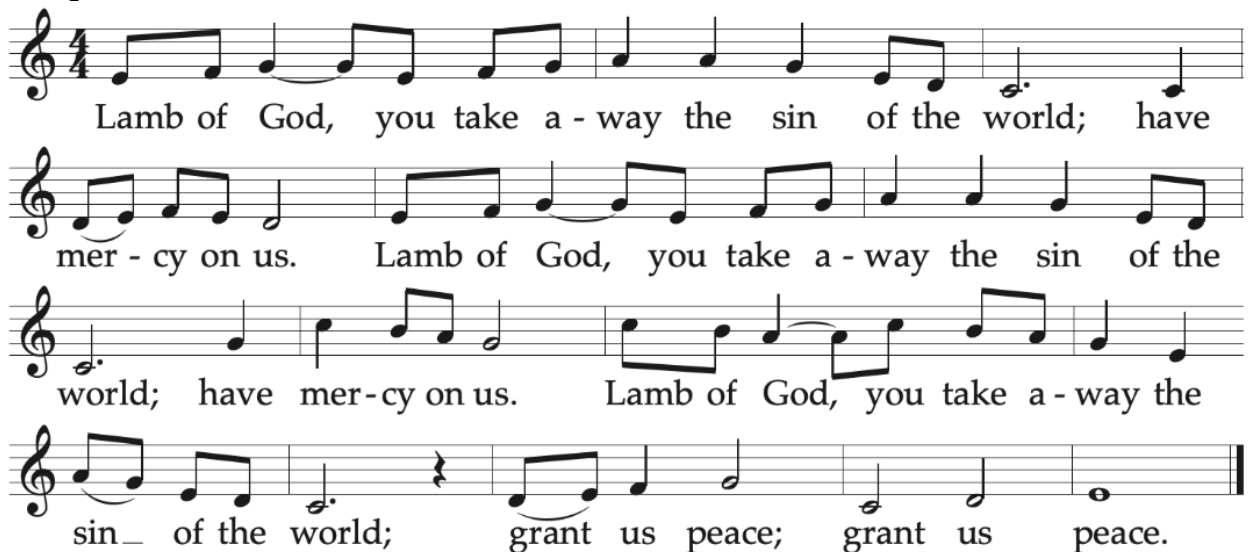
- silent prayers of confession -

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: Rejoice! God claims you.
God's Spirit is poured upon you.
In Christ, you are redeemed.
People: We have been made one!
In all things, at all times, we belong to God!
May our lives reveal such love, such grace!

**Response to Grace*

Agnus Dei (Farlee)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace; grant us peace.

GTG: #604

**Passing of the Peace*

Anna Crawley

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives." Friends, may the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you!

- All in the sanctuary are invited to share a sign of peace with others -

Livestream Check-In

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

Children's Message

- children in the sanctuary are invited to come forward;
children worshipping remotely are invited to gather a bit more closely to the screen -

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Luke 18:9-14, 19:1-10

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

A Lenten Exploration—Prayers That Don't Work:
Prayers of Judgment & Comparison

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Hymn #450

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Ways to offer financial gifts:

- Towsonpres.org - click orange "Give to TPC" 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 →



1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

*Worshippers are invited to stand as able.

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	Jeness Hall
Director of Communications & Connections	McKenzie Waldhauser
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, Denise Blake, Paul Bounelis, Barbara Davis, Ann McKim, Allison Medrano, Julie Mertus, AJ Orendorff and his Family, Ann Phillips, Roger Roth, Jeanette Spratley, Mitzi Tyrie.

TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

New Members Classes || **Today, 11:30am–12:30pm (In-Person) or Monday, March 20, 7:00–8:00pm (Virtual)** || Whether you're new to TPC, interested in learning more about Presbyterianism, or just want to take the next step in your faith journey by becoming a member at TPC, consider attending one of the New Members Classes with Pastor Rob and Pastor Joel. Today, we'll meet in the TPC Library (no registration required), or you can join us tomorrow on Zoom (register at towsonpres.org/grow/adults to receive the Zoom link).

Exploring Lent: Sacred Questions & Holy Doubts || **Sundays, 11:20am–12:20pm, March 12–26** || **TPC Chapel** || Exploring beliefs always comes with questions & often comes with doubts. This series entails participants anonymously submitting questions to be discussed as a group, with the goal of digging deeper, growing in faith, & normalizing asking tough questions in the Christian journey. Facilitated by Amber Bounelis.

Women's Group Gathering || **Friday, March 24, 6:30–9:00pm** || Women of all-ages are invited to attend the monthly Women's Group Gathering this Friday night, 6:30–9:00pm in Thompson Hall for a potluck dinner and fellowship!

Intergenerational Garden: First Workday of Spring || **Saturday, March 25, 9:30–11:30am** || Celebrate the launch of the 14th season of the IGG by participating in the first workday of the spring, happening this Saturday morning! All-ages are invited as this is one of the Lenten hands-on service projects for TPC Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. Bring your garden gloves, tools, friends, and high spirits, and join us!

Diners Club || **Register by March 25** || Join other TPC people in gathering monthly in each other's homes for evenings of dinner and fellowship. This community-building opportunity involves 8–10 people being assigned to a group, with the schedule/venues decided by group participants. The projected first gathering for each group will be the weekend after Easter. That month's host will provide the entree, and other group members will contribute the appetizers, sides, and dessert. Sign up to join a group now at towsonpres.org/grow/adults.

Sacred Space || **Sunday, February 26–Friday, April 7** || Open chapel hours for silence and prayer are as follows: Sundays, 9:00–9:45am and 5:30–7:00pm; Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00–1:00pm; and Fridays, 7:30–9:00am. To engage virtually in spiritual practices of prayer and meditation, visit towsonpres.org/grow/faith-at-home for online resources.

Holy Week || Take part in anticipating the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday by attending one of TPC's Holy Week offerings! A full list of Holy Week events is available at towsonpres.org/holyweek. Mark your calendars for a Maundy Thursday service at 7:30pm, a Good Friday service at 12:00pm, and Easter services at 9:00am and 11:00am.

Looking Back, Giving Forward || **Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30pm, April 12–May 10** || **Virtual** || Back by popular demand, this 5-week online program is designed for those of us in the second chapter of life. Drawing on writings from Joan Chittister's, *The Gift of Years*, and Richard Rohr's, *Falling Upward*,

among other sources, participants will explore how the experience and wisdom developed during our earlier years can inform and help us discern meaningful ways to live and give at this stage. Materials will be provided via email and the meetings will take place weekly over Zoom. Facilitated by Ginny Barnhart and Ross Bregel.

Visit NYC with TPC || Wednesday, August 23, 7:00am–10:30pm || Register by April 15 || Enjoy a day trip to NYC with TPC friends! Guided by Jim Kuhlman, the morning will begin with a charter bus ride, followed by outings to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Central Park (with free time to shop, walk, or grab lunch), with the highlight being a matinee of “Wicked” at the Gershwin Theater, before concluding with an Italian dinner at Becco’s. This trip is limited to 40 people, first come first serve, with a cost of roughly \$333 per person. For more information and to sign up, visit towsonpres.org/grow/adults.

Welcome Home, Honduras Mission Team || TPC’s Honduras Mission Team returned home on Friday, having spent the last week working alongside locals in Copan; offering medical and dental services, and providing manual labor for construction projects. Check out the TPC Facebook page for pictures!

TPC This Week

Sunday, March 19

9:00 a.m.	A Sacred Space- Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Childcare – Noah’s Nursery
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual
11:00 a.m.	Exploring Lent: Sacred Questions & Holy Doubts
11:20 a.m.	New Members Class- Library
11:20 a.m.	Cherub Choir (Rm. 212) & Children’s Choir (Choir Rm.)
12:00 p.m.	Sunday Community Lunch
5:30 p.m.	A Sacred Space- Chapel
5:30 p.m.	Youth Group

Monday, March 20

10:00 a.m.	Bible Study: Ezekiel- Zoom
12:00 p.m.	A Sacred Space- Chapel
7:00 p.m.	New Members Class- Zoom

Tuesday, March 21

10:00 a.m.	Mt Calvary AME Church Tuesday Meal
10:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
2:00-9:00 p.m.	Peabody Rehearsal
7:00 p.m.	Book Study: Armchair Mystic- Zoom
7:00 p.m.	Mission Outreach Committee Meeting- Zoom
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Handbells Rehearsal- Choir room

Wednesday, March 22

12:00 p.m.	A Sacred Space- Chapel
7:00 p.m.	Session Committee Meeting- Zoom

Thursday, March 23

10:00 a.m. Stitching Circle- Thompson Hall
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal- Sanctuary

Friday, March 24

7:30 a.m. A Sacred Space-Chapel
6:30 p.m. Womens Group- Thompson Hall

Saturday, March 25

9:30 a.m. IGG-Intergenerational Garden Opening Day

Sunday, March 26

9:00 a.m. A Sacred Space- Chapel
9:30 a.m. Childcare – Noah’s Nursery
10:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual
11:00 a.m. Exploring Lent: Sacred Questions & Holy Doubts
11:15 a.m. Afghan Sponsorship Update Meeting- Library
11:20 a.m. Cherub Choir (Rm. 212) & Children’s Choir (Choir Rm.)
11:20 a.m. Confirmation Class- Conf room
12:00 p.m. Sunday Community Lunch
5:30 p.m. A Sacred Space- Chapel
5:30 p.m. Youth Group