



# Service of Worship

*Palm Sunday*

April 2, 2023 || 10:00 a.m.

## 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

*O Lord, you rode on.*

*You rode over the cloaks and under the branches,  
You rode through the shouts and past the praises,  
You rode towards the controversy and the cost,  
You rode towards the curses and the cross,  
You rode through the tomb and the grave,  
You rode through our time and space,*

*O Lord, you rode on.*

*We remember the journey you have taken  
as we commit ourselves to walking in the same way.  
Give us the strength, hope, and joy we need  
as we follow.*

### Prelude

*Trumpet Tune in E*

David Johnson

### Welcome

### Moment for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

### Call to Worship

Thom Shuman (*adapted*)

*Leader: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.*

*People: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;  
we will travel through betrayal and death,  
cradling hope deep in our hearts.*

*Leader: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,  
for he is the life we long for;  
he is the Word who sustains us.*

**People:** We wave palm branches in anticipation.  
We lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.  
**Leader:** *Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:  
modeling humility and obedience for all of us.*  
**People:** Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Blessed is the One who brings us  
the kingdom of God.

**Hymn #196**

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor  
(see next page)*

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.  
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

## Invitation to Confess

### \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell (adapted)

On this Sunday, O God,  
we remember how fickle we are;  
    how we pledge our devotion one moment  
    and turn our backs the next.  
We go from shouting “Hosanna! Save us!”  
    to “Crucify him.”

We declare that we love our neighbors  
    and then we turn our backs  
    on the homeless and hungry in our communities.  
We speak up for change and justice in one breath,  
    and then continue unjust practices in our daily lives  
    by what we consume and the needs we ignore.

Forgive us, O God; we are hesitant believers.  
Forgive us, O God; we are fainthearted peacemakers.  
Forgive us, O God; we tire easily and lose focus.  
Forgive us, restore us, and renew us for the journey of faith,  
    so that we might become whole people  
    who live wholly into your vision of new life.

- silent prayers of confession -

### \*Assurance of Grace

*Leader: Jesus rode into Jerusalem to bring peace,  
to offer a new way of life,  
to reveal the kingdom of God.*

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are made whole and life is made new!  
“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

### Response to Grace

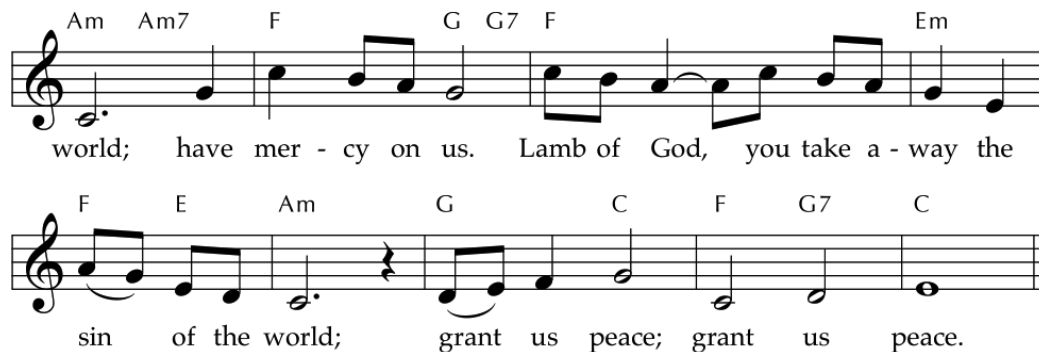
Angus Dei (Farlee)

C F G Am Am7

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

F G C F G E

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



Am Am7 F G G7 F Em  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 F E Am G C F G7 C  
 sin of the world; grant us peace; grant us peace.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

*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!*

**Livestream Check-In**

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

**Children's Message**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Readings**

Matthew 21:1-11

*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.**

**Sermon**

*A Lenten Exploration—Prayers that Don't Work:  
 Prayers with Answers We're Unwilling to Accept*

**Hymn #200**

*A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd*  
 Stanzas 1-2, choir - Stanzas 3-5, all

Christian Love



1 A cheer - ing, chant - ing, diz - zy crowd had  
 2 They laid their gar - ments in the road and  
 3 When day dimmed down to deep - ening dark the  
 4 Lest we be fooled be - cause our hearts have  
 5 In - stead of palms, a wind - ing sheet will



stripped the green trees bare, and hail - ing Christ as  
 spread his path with palms and vows of last - ing  
 crowd be - gan to fade till on - ly tram - pled  
 surged with pass - ing praise, re - mind us, God, as  
 have to be un - rolled, a car - pet much more



king a - loud, waved branch - es in the air.  
 love be - stowed with roy - al hymns and psalms.  
 leaves and bark were left from the pa - rade.  
 this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.  
 fit to greet the king a cross will hold.

### 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 →



### Anthem

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Gilbert Martin

### The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

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 share in his feast. Those in the sanctuary may now open and consume the individually sealed bread and cups. All worshipping remotely may take a piece of bread (any kind), dip it into a cup with wine, juice, or water, and consume it.*

### The Prayer of Response

O God, send us out from our Lord's table  
to answer his summons into new life  
and to follow him with joy and gladness.

Set our feet in his holy way,  
that our lives may be signs of his life  
and all we do may show forth his love. Amen.

Hymn #198

*Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

St. Drostan

1 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the  
 2 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
 3 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of  
 4 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur -  
 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs  
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and  
 pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to

sues its road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
 won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Benediction

Postlude

*Fugue, Op. 12*

Maurice Durufé



# Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive ~ Curious ~ Compassionate ~ Courageous

www.towsonpres.org || on social @TowsonPres

## 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).

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## Please pray for:

Bob Adams, Laura Adams Wentling, Paul Bounelis, Barbara Davis, Ann McKim, Allison Medrano, Julie Mertus, AJ Orendorff and Family, Ann Phillips, Roger Roth, Jeanette Spratley, Denise Blake, Marjorie Appleby, and Mitzi Tyrie.

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## New Here? Welcome—*just as you are.*

We're so glad you're with us! We hope you find meaning in our worship and connection within our community of faith. Currently, TPC offers two Sunday worship opportunities: worship in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. (masking by choice); and a livestream of the 10 a.m. service.

We'd cherish the chance to connect with you. You can join us on social @TowsonPres, and explore our ministries at towsonpres.org. We invite you to join us in-person or anywhere within our new Virtual Campus.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at [churchoffice@towsonpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonpres.org) or 410-823-6500. Thank you, again, for the blessing of your presence.

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## TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

**Holy Week** || Come prepare your heart to celebrate our risen Lord!

- **Sacred Space** || Open chapel hours for prayer and silence will continue throughout Holy Week, concluding on Good Friday after the 7:30–9:00am session.
- **Faith and Film: The Last Temptation of Christ** || **April 5, 1:00–4:00pm** || TPC Library
- **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service** || **April 6, 7:30pm** || Sanctuary and Livestream
- **Good Friday Taize Service** || **April 7, 12:00pm** || Sanctuary and Livestream

**Easter Sunday** || **April 9** || All are welcome! Both services are intergenerational, with children invited to participate in worship in the sanctuary. (*There is no children's programming.*)

- **Worship at 9:00am** || Sanctuary and Livestream

- **Easter Breakfast at 10:00am** || Share breakfast together in Thompson Hall in between services (9:30–11:00am). The menu includes eggs, bacon, fruit salad, pancakes, and assorted baked goods. Please RSVP at [towsonpres.org/holyweek](http://towsonpres.org/holyweek) so we know how many to expect. There is no ticketing for this event, but a freewill donation option.
- **Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00am** || Outdoors
- **Worship at 11:00am** || In-Person Only

**Nominations for Session and the Board of Deacons || Due by Sunday, April 9** || The 2023 Congregational Nominating Committee has begun its work to discern who God is calling to lead the congregation in the Classes of 2025 for Session and the Board of Deacons, and is currently accepting nominations for service to these two bodies. To present a name for the Committee's consideration, submit a completed nomination form to Rob Carter via email or by dropping it off at the church. Forms can be found at [towsonpres.org/media/forms](http://towsonpres.org/media/forms) and in the Narthex.

**One Great Hour of Sharing || Now–Sunday, April 9** || Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. You can donate online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](http://pcusa.org/give-oghs) or by texting "OGHS" to 91999.

**12-Day Sit Spot Challenge || April 11–22** || Leading up to Earth Sunday, all are invited to join Pastor Joel in embarking on a 12-day challenge that involves sitting in nature each day, to grow in connectedness to the natural world and our inner world. Visit the Earth Care Group Facebook Page (linked on [towsonpres.org/serve/environment](http://towsonpres.org/serve/environment)) for more details!

**Looking Back, Looking Forward || Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30pm, April 12–May 10** || Virtual || Back by popular demand, this 5-week online program is for those of us in the second chapter of life. Drawing on writings from Joan Chittester's, *The Gift of Years*, and Richard Rohr's, *Falling Upward*, participants will explore how the experience and wisdom developed during our earlier years can 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.

**Parents Night Out || Saturday, April 15, 6:00–9:00pm** || Parents are invited to gather at the Light/Strom household for food, beverages, and good fellowship. Childcare will be provided at TPC, so drop your children off before heading over! For more info and to RSVP, visit [towsonpres.org/grow/adults](http://towsonpres.org/grow/adults).

**Women's Group Gathering || Friday, April 21, 6:00–9:00pm** || Women of TPC are invited to "An Evening with Julia Child" and potluck dinner in Thompson Hall. Entertainment will be provided by award-winning actress, Mary Ann Jung. Register for the event at [towsonpres.org/grow/adults](http://towsonpres.org/grow/adults) and sign up to bring a dish to share.

**Intergenerational Garden Workday || Earth Sunday, 11:30am–1:00pm** || The IGG's second workday of the season will take place after worship on Earth Sunday. All ages can participate in this hands-on opportunity to connect with nature and grow produce to be shared with local food pantries.

**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](http://towsonpres.org/grow/adults).

## TPC This Week

### Sunday, April 2

- 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
- 11:20 a.m. Children’s Choir (Choir Rm.)
- 12:00 p.m. Sunday Community Lunch
- 3:00 p.m. Project Clean Stream
- 5:30 p.m. A Sacred Space- Chapel

### Monday, April 3

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study: Ezekiel- Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. A Sacred Space- Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Mary, Martha & Me

### Tuesday, April 4

- 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
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Handbells Rehearsal- Choir room

### Wednesday, April 5

- 12:00 p.m. A Sacred Space- Chapel
- 1:00 p.m. Faith & Film: The Last Temptation of Christ
- 7:00 p.m. Communications and CORE Meeting- Zoom

### Thursday, April 6

- 2:00 p.m. Stitching Circle Needlepoint gathering
- 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday/ Tenebrae Service- Sanctuary

### Friday, April 7

- 7:30 a.m. A Sacred Space- Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service- Sanctuary and Virtual

### Sunday, April 9

- 9:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service- Sanctuary and Virtual
- 10:00 a.m. Egg Hunt and Breakfast
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service- Sanctuary and Virtual