



Service of Worship

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2023

Assemble in God's Name

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

Prayerful Reflection

Michael Leunig

God help us to change.
To change ourselves and to change our world.
To know the need for it.
To deal with the pain of it.
To feel the joy of it.
To undertake the journey without understanding the destination.
The art of gentle revolution.
Amen.

Prelude

"Pastoral" from Sonata No. 12

Josef Rheinberger

Welcome

**Call to Worship*

Beth Merrill Neel (*adapted*)

Leader: We gather as the family of God, and much is visible:
People: Our smiles may show our joy;
our eyes may speak of pain.
Leader: We come to this place, seeking signs of the living God:
People: We may sense something holy here;

we may reach out to mystery.

Leader: *Will we see God today?*

People: **Will our living make God's love visible?**

Leader: *Let us worship God, Holy Mystery, Eternal Love.*

People: **Let us join our lives in the life of the church.**

Hymn #401

Gather Us In

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**Invitation to Confess*

**Prayer of Confession*

John Birch (*adapted*)

Holy One,

In Christ, you came revealing

how love can change the world;

how grace can transform lives and communities.

In Christ, you came calling us to be his disciples

who live and share such love and grace into the world.

When you call us to be your voices in this world
and we stay silent...

When you call us to be your hands in this world
and we keep them hidden...

When you call us to be your feet in this world
and we go our own way...

When we meet those who are searching
and we say nothing...

When we meet those who are hurting
and we do nothing...

When you call us take up your cross
and we carry nothing...

Forgive us, precious God.

Breathe life into these bones and
bring freedom to these lives,
that we might declare
with heart, soul, voice, and hands
that you, God of love and grace, reign.

~ silent prayers of confession ~

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: Friends, let us celebrate.

The sins, the brokenness, the burdens of old are no more.

God's grace makes all things new!

People: New life is ours! Loved and claimed as God's very own,
we are blessed with gifts and called to share them.

May our living proclaim God's goodness!

Response to Grace

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

May God for-ev-er be our peace; may hymns of glo-ry nev-er
 cease: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Let all the faith-ful
 peo-ple come; sing praise to God, the Three - in - One:
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GTG: #10

**Passing of the Peace*

Leader: *Having received the gift of peace through Christ,*
 People: **we now have something precious to share.**
 Leader: *May the peace of Christ be with you all.*
 People: **And also with you!**

- those worshipping virtually are invited to share peace and greetings in the “comments” section -

Children’s Message

Proclaim God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 1:15–21

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

“Leadership for Dummies”

Rev. Shannon Weston

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Hymn #298

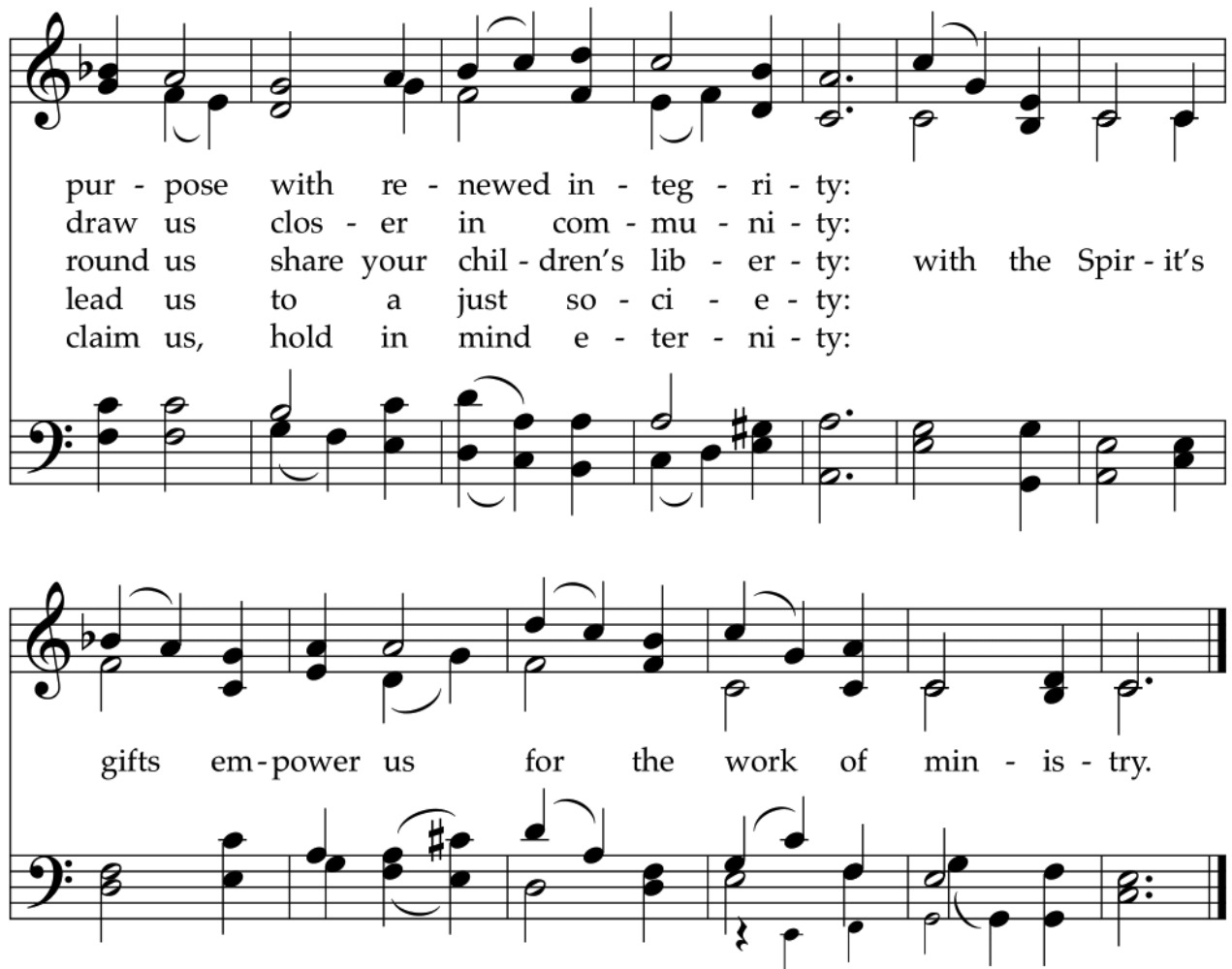
Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Abbot's Leigh

1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This, my bod - y;
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion, and the
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise, life a -
 this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure all that
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing, may we

gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness to your
 bun - dant meant for each, give us all new fer - vor,
 lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the world a -
 you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy
 serve as you in - tend, and, a - mid the cares that



pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty: with the Spir - it's
 lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:
 gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.

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 →



Offertory

Here I Am, Lord

arr. Craig Courtney

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 #100

Canticle of the Turning

Star of the County Down



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in E

David Johnson

Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive ~ Curious ~ Compassionate ~ Courageous

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

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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, Rob Carter, Benjamin DelCarmen, Barbara Davis, Jim Flick, John Lewis, Allison Medrano, Julie Mertus, Joyce Nuttall, Ann Phillips, Phillip Pugh, Janice Searles, Jeanette Spratley, 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. Shannon Weston || The Rev. Shannon Weston (she/her) is a preacher, a teacher, and a lover of all things bright and beautiful. Shannon currently works as a Leadership Coach, Church Consultant, and Coach Trainer for the Coach Approach Skill Training (CAST). Her work with pastors, church leaders, and nonprofits has been recognized as a valid ministry by the Presbytery of Baltimore. Shannon holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Louisville, a Master of Divinity from Louisville Seminary, and will soon receive a Doctor of Ministry from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. She is an accredited Professional Certified Coach (PCC) with the International Coaching Federation. Before Coaching, Shannon served two decades as a pastor in the PCUSA, serving churches in Kentucky, New York, and Maryland. Shannon lives with her husband, Derrick, in Lutherville. Together they raise their four children, a dog, a cat, and an insurmountable number of plants.

Children's and Family Music|| **Begins Today, 11:30am–12:00pm** || Children along with their parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends, are invited to experience the joy of music together every week after worship through winter.

Family Music || Ages 0–1st Grade || Room 212

Facilitated by Lorene LaBerge, classes are composed of singing, movement, and instrument play, and can include the whole family.

Children's Music || Grades 2nd–5th || Choir Room

Facilitated by Stephen Harouff, elementary children will get to sing, play chimes, drums, and prepare music offerings for worship services.

Youth Group Resumes || **Sunday, September 17, 1:35pm** || Youth Group officially kicks off at the Orioles Game at 1:35pm today, and then will meet at TPC for the first time this fall next Sunday, September 24, 5:30–7:30pm. If you haven't already, please fill out the [2023–2024 Youth Registration form](https://towsonpres.org/youth) found in the narthex or at towsonpres.org/youth.

Monday Night Football || **Mondays, 7:00–10:00pm, September 25, October 23, November 20, December 11** || Gathering four times and meeting in a different home each month, this group welcomes all to hangout and watch a game together. No RSVP is required but visit towsonpres.org/adults to sign up to receive the home address each month.

Genesis Bible Study || Mondays, 10:00–11:00am, September 25–October 30 ||
Facilitated by the Rev. Harold Cahill, this weekly small group bible study is open to all this fall, taking place on Zoom. Visit towsonpres.org/events to sign up to receive the Zoom link each week.

Love is the Way Book Study || Various Times, September 26–November 9 || The entire congregation is encouraged to participate in a 6-week book study of “Love is the Way” by Bishop Michael Curry, exploring how we can live out hope and love amidst the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today. Books are available for purchase (\$10) in the narthex and Thompson Hall. Please visit towsonpres.org/love to register for one of these small group discussions (capped at 12 participants each):

***FULL* Group One || Sundays, 11:15am–12:45pm || In-Person**
October 1, October 8, October 15, October 22, October 29, November 5
Facilitated by Jim Kuhlman and Patty O’Brien

Group Two || Mondays, 7:00–8:30pm || In-Person
October 2, October 9, October 16, October 23, October 30, November 6
Facilitated by Dave Morris and Ro Nicolosi

***FULL* Group Three || Tuesdays, 7:00–8:30pm || Zoom**
September 26, October 3, October 10, October 17, October 24, November 7
Facilitated by Bob Bickel and Phyllis Gray

Group Four || Thursdays, 7:00–8:30pm || Zoom
October 5, October 12, October 19, October 26, November 2, November 9
Facilitated by Ginny Barnhart and Elise Hubbard

***NEW* Group Five || Sundays, 11:15am–12:45pm || In-Person**
October 1, October 8, October 15, October 22, October 29, November 5
Facilitated by Roger Rice and Cornelia McKenna

Hiking Group || Saturdays, 9:00–11:00am || 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11, 11/25 || Spend time in nature and develop friendships along the way. Trail locations vary with every hike but are always within 30mins of TPC. Sign up at towsonpres.org/adults to receive the address of next Saturday’s hike!

Women’s Group || Friday, October 6, 6:30–9:00pm || Register now to attend the first Women’s Group of the season and enjoy a potluck dinner and fellowship with others. After you sign up at towsonpres.org/adults, you’ll receive an email with information about contributing a dish.

TPC This Week

- Sun 9/17:** Worship, 10:00am (Sanctuary and Livestream)
Church School, 10:15am (Children's Wing)
Coffee Hour, 11:15am (Thompson Hall)
Children's Music, 11:30am (Choir Room)
Family Music, 11:30am (Room 212)
SCL, 12:00pm (Thompson Hall)
TPC Goes to Camden Yards, 1:35pm (Off-Site)
- Tues 9/19:** WMA Comm. Mtg., 7:00pm (Zoom)
Handbells Rehearsal, 7:30pm (Choir Room)
- Wed 9/20:** Hunger Action Team Meal Prep, 9:00am (Kitchen)
Finance Comm. Mtg., 7:00pm (Zoom)
Personnel Comm. Mtg., 7:00pm (Zoom)
- Thu 9/21:** Men's Breakfast, 8:00am (Towson Diner)
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm (Sanctuary)