



## Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024 || 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.

*Prayerful Reflection* Ann Weems, “And the Glory,” *Kneeling in Jerusalem (adapted)*

*...Let it begin within singing and never end...*

*We who were no people  
are named anew  
'God's people,'  
for he was no more  
is forevermore.*

*Prelude*

*Chorale No. 3 in A Minor*

Cesar Franck

*Welcome*

*\*Call to Worship*

Roddy Hamilton (*adapted*)

*Leader:* We thought we had lost it all!  
We lost the light.  
We lost the way.  
We lost hope.  
We lost love.  
We lost life.  
We lost Jesus, himself.

*People:* But this morning we have found:  
the morning—bright;  
the tomb—empty;  
the stone—rolled;

the women—witnessing;  
the resurrection—proclaiming;  
and Jesus—risen!

*Leader:* Love has conquered death! Grace has conquered sin!  
A new world order takes shape.  
For Christ is risen!

**People:** He is risen, indeed!

*\*Hymn #232*

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Easter Hymn

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um-phant ho - ly day,  
 un - to Christ, our heaven-ly King,  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.  
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love. Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross,  
 who en - dured the cross and grave,  
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,  
 Praise our God, ye heaven-ly host,  
 Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*Invitation to Confess*

*\*Prayer of Confession*

Greg Scheer (*adapted*)

Living Lord,  
 We celebrate the depth of your love  
     that moves through death to life for us.  
 Yet, when we stand before the empty tomb,  
     we struggle to see resurrection;  
     we struggle to embrace new life;  
     we struggle to trust in a love nothing can conquer.

Forgive the fear  
     that paralyzes us at the brink of the new.  
 Forgive the resistance  
     that keeps us from letting go of all to which we cling:  
         our insecurities;  
         our faulty assumptions;  
         our worldly expectations.

Forgive and free us, Risen One.  
 Free us from the shackles we place on ourselves,  
     that we might embrace the life you offer.  
 Free us from the hollowness of our pursuits,  
     that we might live into the light of a love  
         no sin, no shame, no darkness can vanquish.  
 Free and raise us up,  
     that we might serve as your Resurrection People  
         to the glory of your name.

*~ silent reflection & confession ~*

### *\*Assurance of Grace*

Leader: Friends, celebrate!  
God has done a brand-new thing!  
Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen, indeed!**

Leader: Christ is risen to redeem you, heal you, and lead you into new life.

People: Alleluia! Amen.

### *Response to Grace*



Be - hold, be - hold, I make all things new, be -  
ginning with you, and start-ing from to - day. Be - hold, be - hold, I  
make all things new, my pro-mise is true, for I am Christ the way.

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### *\*Passing of the Peace*

Leader: On the evening of Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were gathered  
in fear and sadness, wondering how everything had gone so wrong.

People: **But the risen Christ appeared in their midst, saying,  
"Peace be with you."**

Leader: Friends, may the peace of the risen Christ with you.

People: **And also with you!**

~ All worshipping virtually are invited to greet and share peace with others in the "Comments" section. ~

### *Children's Message*

## Proclaim God's Word

*Anthem*

*This Is the Day*

John Rutter

*Prayer for Illumination*

*Scripture Lesson*

Mark 16:1-8

*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*

“Faith Without Closure”

## Respond in Thanks & Faith

*Hymn #247*

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

Noel Nouvelet

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain;

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

## *Offering Our Gifts to God*

Ways to offer financial gifts:

- Towsonpres.org – click orange “Give” 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 →

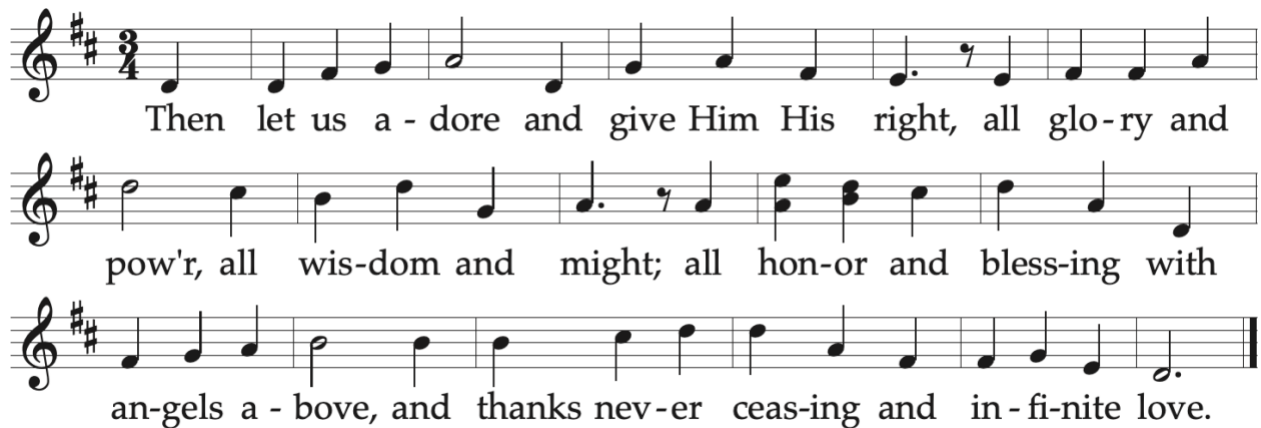


*Anthem*

*To the Lamb on the Throne*

Dan Forrest

*The congregation is invited to join in singing stanza 4.*



Then let us a - dore and give Him His right, all glo - ry and  
pow'r, all wis - dom and might; all hon - or and bless - ing with  
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

## *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 #238*

*Thine Is the Glory*

Judas Macabeus



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quiring Son; end - less is  
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness  
 with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than conquerors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quiring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

*\*Benediction*

*Choral Benediction*                      “Hallelujah” from *Messiah*                      G.F. Handel

*Postlude*                                      “Toccata” from *Symphony No. 5*                      C.M. Widor

## Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive - Curious - Compassionate - Courageous

[www.towsonpres.org](http://www.towsonpres.org) || 410-823-6500 || @TowsonPres

Ministers	All Members of the Church
Senior Pastor	Rev. Rob Carter
Associate Pastor	Rev. Joel Strom
Director of Music and Organist	Stephen Harouff
Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries	Jeness Hall
Director of Communications & Connections	McKenzie Allison
Business Administrator	Kathryn Bojanowski
Administrative Assistant	Barbara Patrick
Sexton	Walter Austin
Parish Associate	Rev. Harold Cahill
Parish Associate	Rev. Mary Gaut
Parish Associate	Rev. Roger Rice
Parish 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'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](http://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](http://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, Owen Bojanowski, Jim Flick, Aldean Howard, Bob Latshaw, Ann Lehwald, John Lewis, Julie Mertus, Julie Morris, Peter, Phillip Pugh, Patty Rath, Janice Searles, Calvin Symons, Ashley Tamayo, Wendy and Barbara Taylor, Sue Thompson, Mitzie Tyrie.

## TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

**Assisting in Worship** || || Pat Keller, Karen Morris, Judith Rietz, Karen Drake, Rob Culp, Bill Sherman, Steve Swift, Beth Bugg, Julie Krief, Ellen Tully, Susan Shockley, Ruth Anne Randolph, Shirley Albert, Matt Hemm

**Easter Sunday** || Thanks for joining us! Noah's Nursery (0–PreK) is available at both services today. All are invited to a light, continental breakfast in Thompson Hall at 10:00am, and a children's Easter Egg Hunt in the front yard at 10:10am.

We welcome **Chris Williams** to worship, our guest percussionist.

**Church Office Closed || Tomorrow, April 1** || The church office will be closed tomorrow to give our staff a much-needed break after Holy Week. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday.

**Mary, Martha, and Me || Tomorrow, April 1, 4:00–7:00pm** || This monthly gathering of mature, single and single-again women meets in Thompson Hall for fellowship, food, and conversation.

**Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life || Every Other Thursday, 7:00–8:30pm, April 4–Jun. 13** || Join Lindsay and Eric Koskinen for a Richard Rohr book study in-person in the TPC Library. We'll explore the book's premise that the changes and challenges in the second half of life can move us "forward and upward" on a journey of spiritual growth, connection, and meaning.

**On Being Muslim || Sunday, April 7, 11:30am–1:00pm** || Using video resources from the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies (ICJS), in the Library with Joel Strom, we'll explore Islam as a religion that nourishes body, heart, mind, and soul.

**Project Clean Stream || Sunday, April 7, 4:00–6:00pm** || All are invited (especially Youth) to participate in Project Clean Stream. We'll meet by the bridge on L'Hirondelle Club Rd. Wear clothes that can get dirty and shoes that can get wet, as well as work gloves!

**Poetry, Religion, and Culture || Sundays, 11:15am–12:30pm, April 14 and 28** || Join David Jackson in the Chapel to discuss how different faith traditions have influenced poetry.

**Parenting Forum: Head, Heart, and Hands || Sundays, 11:20am–12:30pm, April 14, 28, and May 5** || As part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Soil Parenting Project, all parents are invited to this three-part forum-style discussion led by seasoned parents of (now) adult children.

**Daniel Bible Study || Mondays, 10:00–11:00am, April 15–May 20** || Join Harold Cahill on Zoom starting mid-April to study the book of Daniel.

**Women's Group || Friday, April 19, 6:00–9:00pm** || Women of all ages are invited to a potluck dinner and an evening of fellowship and entertainment. RSVP for this event at [towsonpres.org/adults](http://towsonpres.org/adults) (and sign up to bring a dish).

**Summer Camp and Youth Trips** || Online registration is open for all three summer offerings for children and youth:

- Massanetta Springs || June 20–23 || 5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Montreat Youth Conference || July 7–13 || 8<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Camp BeeTree || July 15–19 || K–12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Sunday Community Lunch** || Every Sunday, 12:00–1:00pm || Each Sunday in Thompson Hall, church members and those who face food insecurity and/or homelessness come together for a shared meal. We invite all to participate in this cherished time of fellowship!

**Blue Jean Sunday** || Sunday, April 21, 11:00am–1:00pm || Help us care for our building and grounds on Blue Jean Sunday, as we split up to tackle different projects around the church. (Feel free to wear your work clothes to worship!)

**Intergenerational Garden Workdays** || Spend time in nature with others, learning sustainable practices and growing produce to be donated to ACTC. Sign up to help out on your own, or join us for one of these group workdays:

- Sunday, April 21, 11:30am–1:00pm || Blue Jean Sunday
- Saturday, May 11, 9:30–11:30am || Group Workday
- Friday, June 7, 5:00–7:00pm || Happy Hour

## TPC This Week

<b>Sun 3/31:</b>	9:00am 10:00am 10:10am 11:00am	Worship (Sanctuary and Livestream) Continental Breakfast (Thompson Hall) Easter Egg Hunt (Front and Side Yards) Worship (Sanctuary Only)
<b>Mon 4/1:</b>	4:00pm	Church Office Closed Mary, Martha, and Me (Thompson Hall)
<b>Tue 4/2:</b>	10:30am 2:00pm 7:30pm	Staff Mtg. (Library) Parish Visitor Training (Library) Handbells Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
<b>Wed 4/3:</b>	7:00pm	CORE Mtg. (Zoom)

	7:00pm	Men's Group (Library)
<b>Thu 4/4:</b>	7:30pm	Falling Upward (Library)
<b>Fri 4/5:</b>	6:00pm	First Friday, Grades 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> (Thompson Hall)