



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 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

John Birch (*adapted*)

*As streets fill with shoppers
Bright lights and tempting offers
Christmas songs and children's laughter
You lead us along a different path
To a desert river and a Prophetic voice
A call to repentance
A call to service
A call to immerse ourselves in living water that will never run dry
A call to prepare a way in our own lives
For the Savior of the world to enter in
To know the touch of tender mercy
And rest in your forgiving love*

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come; BWV 659

J.S. Bach

Welcome

**Lighting the First Candle of Advent—Hope*

Leader: Each year, the arrival of Advent reminds us the world is not as God intends. While Christ came revealing the way of love and life, we know violence, poverty, and pain are far too prevalent. But if we listen closely, we can hear Isaiah calling from deep in the past, pointing us to “days to

come... when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

People: **We choose to watch and wait in hope, celebrating the grace of God already at work around and within us.**

Leader: *We light the candle of hope, committing to prepare for the days to come when God’s kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.*

- the candle is lit -

Leader: *Let us pray. Coming One, shine your light of hope within us, that we might embody your hope for all the world.*

People: **Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

Hymn #348

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Helmsley

1 Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand,
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near; all the
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,

thou - sand saints at - tend - ing join to
 saints this world re - ject - ed thrill the
 take the power and glo - ry; claim the

sing the glad re - frain: Al - le -
 trum - pet sound to hear: Al - le -
 king - dom as thine own. Come, Lord

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Je - sus; come, Lord Je - sus; come, Lord

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 Je - sus. Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

**Invitation to Confess*

**Prayer of Confession*

Amazing God who comes to us,
 As we begin our Advent journey,
 we come to you with longing hearts.
 We have struggled to live in the light of your hope.
 We have placed our trust in things that disappoint,

and have grown weary
waiting for the fullness of your kingdom.
We have been quick to give in to despair
failing to prepare our hearts for your coming.

Forgive us, O God.
Renew in us the hope that was born in Bethlehem,
the hope that lives within us through Christ.
Help us to be patient in our waiting,
persistent in our hope,
and faithful in our pursuits for justice and peace. May the
light of Christ shine brightly within us
as we seek to bring hope to a world in need.

- silent reflection and confession -

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: Friends, God comes to us not in anger or condemnation,
but with mercy and love. By the grace of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven and redeemed.

People: Alleluia! Amen!
Let us boldly proclaim the hope we have in Christ.

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: The peace Jesus revealed is not won or earned,
but experienced amid a deep trust in God's love and care.
May the peace of our Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Children's Message

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Leader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

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

Playing the Prophet, Part 1:
"Hope!"

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Hymn #103

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

O-So-So

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

Offering Our Gifts to God

- 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

Christus Paradox

Alfred Fedak

Sacrament of Communion

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. At this time, you may come to the table where communion is celebrated via “intinction.” All are invited to take a piece of bread, ripped from a common loaf, and dip it into the cup before consuming. Those preferring may take an allergy-free wafer from a bowl on the table. Those preferring to remain seated are invited to raise a hand and a server will bring the table to you.

Prayer of Response

**Gracious God, how can we thank you for such a gift?
You have met us, fed us, drawn us to you,
and bound us to one another.
Now send us out to share your love
and proclaim the hope we have in you. Amen.**

Hymn #357

The Days Are Surely Coming

Llangloffan

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

Benediction

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come; BWV 661

J.S. Bach

Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive - Curious - Compassionate - Courageous

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

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Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music and Organist

Business Administrator

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Administrative Assistant

Sexton

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Parish Associate

Parish Associate

Pastor Emeritus

All Members of the Church

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Stephen Harouff

Kathryn Bojanowski

McKenzie Allison

Barbara Patrick

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, Dotsie Bregel, Walter Cesewski, Jim Flick, Jennifer Gettier, Aldean Howard, Bill Kladky, Julie Mertus, Phillip Pugh, Janice Searles, Calvin Symons, Sue Thompson, Mitzi Tyrie.

TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

Assisting in Worship || Pat Keller, Jim Kuhlman, Judith Rietz, Joyce Nuttall, Bill Sherman, Ross Bregel.

Welcome Dave Britt || We are blessed to welcome Dave Britt as our new Mission Coordinator! Dave has served in both ministry and nonprofit leadership roles, having been a pastor for many years, and a CEO of a nonprofit in Louisiana. He and his wife Viola moved to Baltimore in 2021 to be closer to their son and his family (who are members of TPC).

Advent Festival || **Today, 10:15am–12:00pm** || After the Children's Message today, kids will be dismissed from worship into Thompson Hall to enjoy Christmas crafts and activities. Parents and families are invited to join them after the service.

First Fridays and the Towson Christmas Tree Lighting || **Friday, Dec. 6, 6:00pm** || Visit TPC's Community Outreach and Engagement (CORE) Committee at the Towson Tree Lighting this Friday evening. 4th–5th graders and families are especially invited, as it's a First Friday. Visit towsonpres.org/events for details.

Women's Group || **Friday, Dec. 6, 6:00–9:00pm** || All women of TPC and friends are invited to enjoy a potluck dinner and Christmas cookie exchange in Thompson Hall this Friday. Register at towsonpres.org/adults, and you'll be emailed the

SignUp Genius to contribute to the potluck. If you would like to participate in the cookie exchange, please bring 2 dozen of your favorite munchables to trade!

Introducing Our New Church Management Software and App || Churchwide Training on Sunday, Dec. 8, 11:20am–12:00pm || For many years, we have relied on ACCESS for our online giving, people database, calendar, and registrations. After careful considering and research, our leadership has decided to transition to a new, cloud-based church management system and mobile app called *CHURCH CENTER*. We encourage you to explore the new platform by scanning this QR code or by visiting towsonpres.org/churchcenter, and bring your phone to church on Dec. 8 for a Church Center training after worship!



Changes to Online Giving || You can continue to give online through ACCESS until Dec. 31, 2024. Starting Jan. 1, 2025, all online giving will take place through Church Center. Visit towsonpres.org/give for more details, to make a 2025 pledge of giving, and to set up a recurring giving pattern for 2025. Recurring giving patterns previously scheduled in ACCESS that extend into 2025 will need to be re-scheduled in Church Center by the end of this year. If this applies to you, Kathryn Bojanowski will contact you directly to assist.

McKim Center Angel Tree || **Now–Sunday, Dec. 8** || Grab a tag for a child (i.e. 10–12yo girl) from Thompson Hall or from the tree by the Chapel, and bless a child from the McKim Center this Christmas with age/gender-specific presents. *This is a great service opportunity for families to do together!*

Children’s Christmas Pageant Rehearsal || **Sundays, 11:20am–12:30pm, Dec. 8 and Dec. 22** || There will be two rehearsals for this year’s Children’s Christmas Pageant, which will be performed on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm. Younger children (Age 2–5th) can participate in non-speaking roles, while older children and teens (6th–12th) will be narrators.

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser || **Now–Sunday, Dec. 15** || Purchase a holiday wreath through Lynch Creek Farm to help underwrite the cost of the Montreat Youth Conference for our high school students this summer. Check Friday’s eNews or visit towsonpres.org/forms for the direct link.

Advent Devotional Discussions || **Sundays, 5:30–6:00pm, Dec. 1–22** || The Adult Spiritual Formation Committee invites you to read along in *Presbyterians Today’s* devotional this Advent. A brief Zoom gathering will take place each Sunday evening during Advent to discuss that day’s devotional reading. Download the devotional and access the Zoom call at towsonpres.org/christmas.

Diners Club || Register by Jan. 7 || During the cold winter months, join a small group of 8 people and take turns hosting at least 3 warm and cozy potlucks (or new this year, you can also meet for breakfast/brunch). Register at towsopres.org/adults.

Christmas Eve Services || Tuesday, Dec. 24, 4:00pm Children's Pageant and 8:00pm Service of Lessons and Carols || Come celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this Christmas Eve at TPC! Both services will take place in-person in the Sanctuary and livestreamed. *Childcare will not be offered, but infants and children are always wholeheartedly welcome to remain in worship with their families.*

TPC This Week

Sun 12/1:	10:00am 10:00am 10:15am 11:00am 12:00pm 5:30pm	Noah's Nursery, 0-4 (Lower Level) Worship (Sanctuary and Livestream) Advent Festival, PreK-5 th (Thompson Hall) Coffee Hour (Thompson Hall) Sunday Community Lunch (Thompson Hall) Advent Devotional Discussion (Zoom)
Mon 12/2:	10:00am 4:00pm	Bible Study: New Testament Letters (Zoom) Mary, Martha, and Me (Thompson Hall)
Tue 12/3:	10:30am 7:00pm 7:30pm	Staff Mtg. (Library) <i>The Only Prayer You'll Ever Need</i> (Zoom) Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Wed 12/4:	7:00pm	Men's Group (Library)
Thu 12/5:	7:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Fri 12/6:	6:00pm 6:00pm 6:00pm	Women's Group (Thompson Hall) First Fridays, 4 th -5 th (Towson Circle) CORE at the Tree Lighting (Towson Circle)