



Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 12, 2025 || 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

Grant, Holy One,
that in the waters of baptism
I might remember
who I am:

*the truth that has named me,
the grace that has claimed me,
and the love that will never let me go.*

*And in remembering,
be within my living, Lord,
that my life might boldly proclaim more of you
and the gracious goodness you intend for all.*

Prelude

Adagio in E Major

Frank Bridge

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: *When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended upon him, and a voice echoed from heaven.*

People: **"You are my child, the Beloved;
with you I am well-pleased."**

Leader: *Jesus was named and claimed as a child of God,
gifted and called by God.*

People: We come to the water
and remember the promises of baptism:
we are named; we are claimed;
we are gifted and called by God.

Leader: *Let us worship the One who names, claims, and calls us still.*

Hymn #403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Unser Herrscher

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
 3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be

en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
 done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,

waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
 there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
 while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
 en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
 foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

**Invitation to Confess*

**Prayer of Confession*

Holy One,
In Christ, you came revealing the truth of who you are,
and who you created us to be.
In Christ, you came revealing our ability
to shine light and love to a broken and divided world.

But we've ignored the identity you've given us;
we've hidden from the calling you've placed upon us.
While you call us your "beloved,"
we keep trying to prove to ourselves that we are "enough."
While you have already redeemed us,
we keep trying to prove ourselves to a world
that insists we will never be or have "enough."
We've lost sight of who we are,
while contributing to the greed and brokenness
that tear at the fabric of your beloved community.

Incarnate One, remind us again of baptism's promise,
that we would start living lives that
celebrate love,
prioritize grace,
and foster community that values all—
no proof required.

- silent reflection and confession.-

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: *Friends, rejoice. In baptism, God has called you by name, washed you in love, and claimed you as God's very own. You are made one with Christ, renewed and redeemed!*

People: **In Christ we are a new creation, forgiven and made whole!
Praise be to God! Amen.**

**Response to Grace*

We Are Forgiven



We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for-giv-en. We are for-
 giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

GTG: #447

**Passing of the Peace*

Leader: The waters of baptism reveal how loved and blessed we are. This peace is ours to live and share. May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!

Children's Message

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Luke 3:15-18, 21-22

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

Belonging—Part 1:
 Claimed for Something Bigger

Respond in Thanks & Faith

**Hymn #737*

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Les Petites Soeurs

1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

I'll tell ev - ery - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - ily you saved by your love,

Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Scripture

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Beloved people of God, in the covenant of baptism you are claimed by God as God's very own, and enjoined to Christ, traveling with him from death to life. Your past sins and failures are washed away in these waters, which cover you in the great love of God and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

People: Our past faults and shames, our pride and hypocrisy, society's measuring sticks, and other people's opinions have no power to define us. We are God's. The Spirit lives and moves through us, a great and joyful mystery, so we may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

Leader: Rejoice that God has named and claimed you in this covenant, blessing you that you may be God's blessings in the world.

People: We thank God that we are so loved—God's "beloved" children—joined together in Christ by the Spirit.

Silent Reflections

What love—to be named and claimed by God.

Those desiring may now come to a baptismal font at the front of the sanctuary to touch, feel, see, and hear the water.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Baptism

Charge

Leader: Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Offering Our Gifts to God

- Towsonpres.org – click orange “Give” button at top of page
- Text a dollar amount to 84321
- Drop off or mail check to the church
- Scan this QR code →



Offertory

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

John Gardner

Hymn #485

We Know That Christ Is Raised

Engelberg

Capo 3: (D)

(Asus) (A)

(A/G)

(D/F#)



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

(D)

(A)

(D)

(E7)

(A)



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

(Am)

(D)

(G)

(Em)

(Bm)



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:

1-3

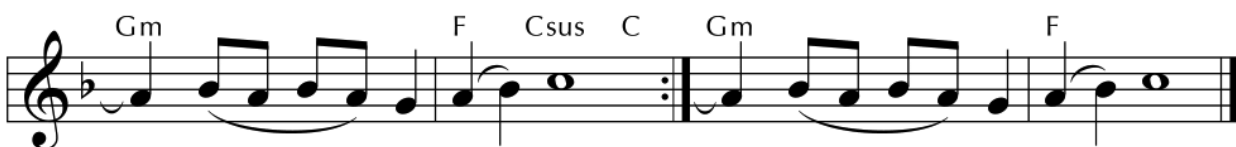
4

(Em)

(D) (Asus) (A)

(Em)

(D)



Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

Benediction

Postlude

“*Allegro assai vivace*” from Sonata No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn

Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive - Curious - Compassionate - Courageous

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

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, The Family of Edward Gilliss, Aldean Howard, Bill Hunter, Bill Klady, Julie Mertus, Phillip Pugh, Jim Ransom, Janice Searles, Russell Smouse, Patsy Stein, Calvin Symons, Sue Thompson, Mitzi Tyrie, Lee Weber.

TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

Assisting in Worship || Ross Bregel, Pat Keller*, Jim Kuhlman, Karen Morris, Joyce Nuttall, Judith Rietz, Jeffrey Tobian.

Thank You, McKenzie || This Sunday, we bid farewell to McKenzie Allison, TPC's Director of Communication & Connections for the past two years. Her leadership has transformed these ministries in incredible ways. From managing all digital and print communications to spearheading efforts to connect with visitors, McKenzie's work has led to significant growth in both social media and livestream engagement. McKenzie also led the redesign of our signage, revamped eblasts and reports, streamlined processes, and guided our transition to Church Center, a more user-friendly church app. McKenzie has been a vital member of our staff, bringing vision, organization, humor, strength, and kindness to all she did. We will miss her, but we celebrate her new call to serve churches nationwide in database management. Let's thank God for her time with us and wish her blessings in this next chapter.

Welcome Whitney Grimm || We are blessed to welcome Whitney Grimm this morning as our new *Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries*. Whitney grew up in the Ozarks, where she met her husband, Eric. She graduated from Rollins College in 2021 with a degree in Philosophy and an emphasis in Religion and Sociology. In 2024, she earned her law degree from George Washington University Law School. During and after law school, she worked with a faith-based nonprofit on human rights issues, which strengthened her belief in the church's role as a catalyst for justice in the world. Whitney brings nearly a decade of experience working with children and youth in diverse roles, including Camp Counselor, Tutor, Nanny, Debate Coach, Sunday School Teacher, LOGOS Instructor, and Youth Director. She is passionate about nurturing young minds and fostering faith-based community!

2025 Per Capita || As a PC(USA) church, we celebrate the communion of all believers, and value sharing our gifts and resources to support the mission of the larger church. Each year, PC(USA) churches and members are invited to offer per capita – an essential, annual offering that directly funds denominational resources, ministries, and programs, that reach every level of the PC(USA), including local congregations. Visit towsonpres.org/give to offer your 2025 per capita of \$42.

Hunger Action Team Mtg. || **Today, 11:20am–12:30pm** || Those interested in our Hunger Action Team (HAT) and/or Sunday Community Lunch (SCL) are invited to attend their meeting in the Library after worship today.

Monday Morning Bible Study: The General Epistles || **Mondays, 10:00–11:00am, Starting Jan. 13** || **Zoom** || Join the Rev. Harold Cahill on Zoom Monday mornings to study the General Epistles, starting with the Book of Hebrews. All are invited

and encouraged to join us to learn, be inspired and informed as the Spirit opens the pages of the scriptures to reveal God's Word, Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer.

Tuesday Evening Book Study || Tuesdays, 7:00–8:00pm, Starting Jan. 14 || *The Politics of Jesus* by Obery M. Hendricks challenges us to reconsider our approach to politics, social ethics, and violence. Christianity is not just about getting into heaven. It is about getting beyond spiritualizing Jesus' teachings, so we can faithfully and intentionally be in the world but not of it. This book discussion will be led by Rev. Harold Cahill and take place on Zoom each week.

Earth Care Action Team Mtg. || Sunday, Jan. 19, 11:20am–12:30pm || Anyone interested in the Earth Care Action Team and/or the Intergenerational Garden (IGG) is invited to their next meeting in the Library next Sunday after worship.

Peacemaking Action Team Mtg. || Sunday, Jan. 26, 11:20am–12:30pm || Our Peacemaking Action Team (PAT) seeks to help bring about a more just society through healing, compassion, and hope. Join them for their next meeting later this month in the Library.

LOGOS || Wednesdays, 5:30–7:30pm, Jan. 29–Feb. 19 || For adults, youth, and children, LOGOS is a time of intergenerational fellowship, study, worship, and fun! We'll enjoy a family-style meal together, recreation, a brief lesson, and learn a practice that we can take back to Sunday worship. Programming is available for adults and K–12th. Visit towsonpres.org/events to register now.

Youth Snow Tubing || Friday, Jan. 31, 5:45–10:00pm || 6th–12th graders (and parents, if desired) are invited to an evening of snow tubing at AvalancheXpress in York, PA. We'll carpool from TPC and eat dinner together there. Tickets are FREE for the first 20 registrants. Save your spot now at towsonpres.org/events!

Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story || Sunday, Feb. 2, 11:20am–1:00pm || In celebration of Black History Month in February, join Rev. Joel Strom and Ginny Barnhart for a viewing and discussion of the “Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story” documentary in-person in the Library.

Changes to Giving || Giving on Church Center is now live, effective Jan. 1, 2025! All online donations will no longer take place on ACCESS. If you haven't yet set up a recurring giving pattern for 2025, visit towsonpres.org/give. With questions about online giving, read the FAQ page on Church Center, or contact Kathryn Bojanowski.

2025 Summer Youth Trips || Register for our summer camp and youth trips:
Massanetta Springs || June 24–27 || Grades 5th–8th

Montreat Youth Conference || July 6–12 || Grades 8th–12th
Camp BeeTree || July 14–18 || Grades K–12th
Presbyterian Youth Triennium || July 28–31 || Grades 8th–12th

TPC This Week

Sun 1/12:	10:00am 10:00am 10:15am 11:00am 11:20am 12:00pm	Noah's Nursery, 0–4 (Lower Level) Worship (Sanctuary/Livestream) Church School, PreK/K–5 th (Classrooms) Coffee Hour (Thompson Hall) Hunger Action Team Mtg. (Library) Sunday Community Lunch (Thompson Hall)
Mon 1/13:	10:00am 7:00pm	Bible Study: <i>The General Epistles</i> (Zoom) Circle 13 (Thompson Hall)
Tue 1/14:	10:30am 2:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Staff Mtg. (Library) Parish Visitor Mtg. (Library) Book Study: <i>The Politics of Jesus</i> (Zoom) Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thu 1/16:	8:00am 7:30pm	Men's Breakfast (Towson Diner) Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)