



Service of Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18th, 2025 || 10:00 a.m.

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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 (adapted)

Rev. Katherine HawkerSelf

*Jesus offers a new-old commandment,
that we should love each other.*

*With the incredible power
and the unfathomable depth
of God's love for us
we can and we must love one another.
And it is in t our love for one another
that the world will know
whom and what we worship.*

*Come, children of God,
let us love one another.*

Prelude

To God Be the Glory

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome

**Call to Worship*

Leader: *In a world clinging to divisions and boundaries,
the Spirit whispers a deeper truth:
there is no “us” and “them”—only God’s beloved.*

People: **We come to listen for that voice,
to be shaped by that love,
to let go of what holds us back.**

Leader: *Jesus shows us a new way—a way that breaks down barriers,
where love is not just a sentiment, but a radical,
transformative calling.*

People: **We come to be reminded—love calls us to action.
Far from just a feeling, it is a way of life.**

Leader: *So come. Coome to be transformed by love.*

People: **Let us worship God who calls us to live with open hearts!**

Hymn #301

Let Us Build a House

Two Oaks

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B \flat C Dm



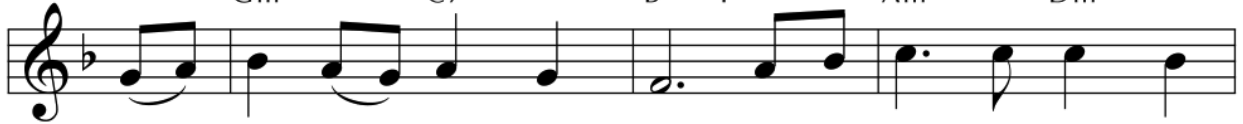
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B \flat F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B \flat



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

**Invitation to Confess*

**Prayer of Confession*

(adapted)

Rev. Doug Hagler

God of the shamed and the liberated,
 You call us to love as Christ loves us,
 but we are quick to draw lines of division.
 We exclude others—quietly or overtly—
 believing ourselves justified.
 We hold grudges,
 nurture contempt,
 and hide our own shame for fear of being exposed.
 We claim your love makes us holy,
 assuming holiness means “more like us.”

But we forget—or never really understood—
 that everything you touch is holy;
 that all of creation is yours;
 that your love never conforms to our categories
 of worthy and unworthy.

Forgive us, God of Mercy.
Remind us, again, that
 when we exclude, we exclude you;
 when we hold grudges, we grieve you;
 when we show contempt, we scorn those you love.
Make us holy in your truth,
 open-hearted, boundary-breaking, and bold in love,
 as Jesus was.

- silent reflection and confession -

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!
 God's love is not limited by our judgments.
 When we fall short, God redeems us and lifts us up.
People: Praise God! We are forgiven and set free
 to love as we have been loved.
 In the name of Jesus Christ, we are made whole.

**Response to Grace*

Lass Uns Erfreuen

O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**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 be with you.
People: And also with you!

- All in the sanctuary are invited to share peace with others -

Livestream Check-In

- Children are invited to come forward.-

Children's Message

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Lesson

Acts 11: 1-18

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

“Called to Love & Let Go”

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Anthem

Like Him We Rise

Tom Trenney

Sacrament of Baptism & Reaffirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

Jasen Carter, Alex Cowger, Phoebe Hemm, Matthew Joffe,
William Mascari, Mia Munro, and Locklin Palmer.

Scripture

Presentation

Profession of Faith

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Baptism

Blessing (Laying on of Hands)

Welcome

Hymn of Welcome

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.

Words and Music by John L. Bell, The Iona Community.
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Offering Our Gifts to God

Ways to offer financial gifts

- Towsonpres.org – click the 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

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

Hymn #634

To God Be the Glory

To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
 2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
 but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Benediction

Postlude

Toccata in Seven

John Rutter

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).

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.

We deeply appreciate you joining us today, and hope you are blessed by your time worshiping with us.

Prayer List:

Peter Bauer, Walter Cesewski, The Family of Victoria Cowger, Jim Flick, Deborah Ford, Jennifer Gettier, Bill Hunter, Bill Kladky, Ed Lotz, Tim Lotz, Julie Mertus, The Family of Robin Munro, George Openhym, Alan Randolph, Janice Searles, Russell

Smouse, Joan Strout, Sue Thompson, Mitzi Tyrie, Lee Weber. *Names are listed for three weeks unless otherwise requested.*

TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

Assisting in Worship || Rob Culp, Norma Haynes, Julie Kreif*, Tony Kreif, Kimberly Light, Susan Shockley, Steve Swift, Carol Whiteford.

Confirmation Sunday || Today we are richly blessed to celebrate Confirmation, or the Reaffirmation of Baptism for youth who have shared in TPC's Confirmation program: *Jasen Carter, Alex Cowger, Phoebe Hemm, Matthew Joffe, William Mascari, Mia Munro, and Locklin Palmer.*

Senior Recognition || We give thanks for the young adults who have grown up in our community and now graduate from high school:

- *Nathan Coles* – graduate of Dulaney HS; attending Clemson University
- *York Hauer* – graduate of Loyola Blakefield; attending Lynn University
- *Charlotte Hemingway* – graduate of Towson HS; attending Christopher Newport University
- *Brody Kays* – graduate of Towson HS; attending St. Mary's College of MD
- *Brendan McCabe* – graduate of Dulaney HS; attending Salisbury University
- *Elliot Palmer* – graduate of Calvert Hall; attending Michigan State

How Do I Pray? - 4 Ways to Deepen Our Life with God || Today || 11:20am - 12:30pm || Join Pastor Joel in the Chapel or over on Zoom to explore four ways to pray that can deepen our life with God: 1. Talking at God | 2. Talking to God | 3. Listening to God | 4. Being with God. [Zoom Link](#).

Service of Remembrance || Today || 1:00pm, BeeTree Cemetery || Gather for a special Service of Remembrance at the BeeTree Cemetery in Parkton, MD as we give thanks for TPC's veterans who served our nation and now live eternally with God. The service will include the placement of flags at each veteran's grave.

On May 25, our worship service will include remembrance and thanksgiving for all deceased veterans.

P5 Moms Connect Group Gathering || Pregnant Women and Moms with Children - 5th Grade, Friday, June 6, 6:00-8:00pm || Please join us this month as we repurpose/exchange “gently used” items while enjoying homemade crepes. Examples of exchangeable items to repurpose are household decor, clothing (adult and children) toys, beauty products, jewelry. [Register here!](#) For more information, you can reach out to Teresa Labarre or Dotsie Bregel. Note P5 will not meet in July and August. Stay tuned for fall 2025 dates.

Sanyu Babies Home and Mulago Hospital Malnutrition Clinic in Uganda || May 11 – June 1 || The Sanyu Babies Home in Kampala cares for 50+ young children (0-4), and urgently needs a well for clean water. The Mulago Hospital Malnutrition Clinic treats 120 children monthly and needs medical supplies, including CPAP machines, infusion pumps, and more. The Tobian family will volunteer at both sites this summer. Through the Snyder Fund, TPC has committed \$12,788 to fund the well. From May 11 to June 1, please donate to support these life-saving efforts—100% of your gift goes directly to the orphanage and clinic. [Click here to donate.](#)

Congregational Meeting || Today after worship || Sanctuary & Zoom || A brief meeting of the congregation is called to respond to the nominating slate (for new elders and deacons in the Class of 2028) put forward by the 2025 Congregational Nominating Committee. [Click here to join the zoom meeting.](#)



Church Center || Use TPC’s mobile app to stay connected! Download it using this QR code, or learn more at towsonpres.org/churchcenter.

This Week @ TPC

Sun 5/18:	10:00am	Noah’s Nursery (Lower Level)
	10:00am	Worship Service (Sanctuary/Livestream)
	10:15am	Church School (PreK/K-5 th)
	11:20am	How Do I Pray? - 4 Ways to Deepen Our Life with God (Chapel & Zoom)
	12:00pm	Sunday Community Lunch (Thompson Hall)
	1:00pm	Service of Remembrance at Bee Tree Cemetery

Mon 5/19	10:00am	Bible Study: General Epistles (Zoom)
Tues 5/20:	10:30am	Staff Meeting (Library)
	1:30pm	Prayer Shawl Knitting (Nook)
	6:30pm	Mission and Outreach Comm. Mtg. (Zoom)
	7:00pm	Book Study: The Politics of Jesus (Zoom)
	7:00pm	CYFM Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Thurs 5/22:	7:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal