



Service of Worship

Earth Sunday

April 19th, 2026 || 10:00am

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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

Pope Francis (*adapted*)

All-Powerful God,
You are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace all that exists with your tenderness.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
who are so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives, so we may protect the world and sow beauty.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, and to recognize
that we are profoundly united with every creature,
as we journey towards your infinite light. Amen.

Prelude

“Sinfonia” from Cantata No. 29

J.S. Bach

Welcome

**Call to Worship*

Marge Piercy (adapted)

Leader: *The new day reveals itself in every moment, and by the grace of God
all things are made possible. Come, let us give thanks.*

People: **We give thanks to you, blessed, mysterious Life-giver,
for one more day to experience the miracle of creation.**

Leader: *With every breath we remember that life is a gift from you, O God,
and we give thanks.*

People: **With every bite of healthy food, we know the wonder
of your diverse and fruitful Earth, and we give thanks.**

Leader: *With every word we affirm your transforming love for each of us,
and we give thanks.*

People: **Holy God, through you all things are made new.
Creation is full of your glory. All praise be yours!**

Hymn #32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ellacombe

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy

skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

**Invitation to Confess*

**Prayer of Confession*

from PCUSA Mission Agency - Earth Care

Gracious and Merciful God,
in your presence we confess our sins.
Although Christ is risen from the grave
and has shattered the power of death,
we are still held captive by fear and doubt.
We have neglected the poor and the hungry,
and ignored the cries of the oppressed.
We have pursued profits and pleasures
that harm the land and pollute the waters,
leaving this world depleted and damaged
for future generations.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.
Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new,
that we and all your creatures
may know the joy of life abundant,
given through Christ Jesus, the risen Lord. Amen.

- silent reflection and confession -

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News!
The Gospel reveals the depths of God's love,
and the boundlessness of God's grace to you.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven
and blessed with freedom, purpose, and fullness.

**Response to Grace*

Hallelujah (Maraire)



**Passing of the Peace*

Leader: The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
We are called to live in peace with God, with our neighbors,
and with the land, waters, and creatures entrusted to our care.

People: As we share signs of Christ's peace,

let us remember our calling to be stewards
of God's good creation,
and agents of healing in a broken world.

Leader: Friends, may the peace of our Lord Jesus 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

Genesis 9: 9-17

Pew Bible p. 7, OT

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Blessed Be!

Melanie DeMore

Scripture Lesson

p. 46, NT

Mark 10: 17-22

Pew Bible

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

Gaut

"Living in a Moral Universe"

Rev. Mary

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Hymn #27

Sacred the Body

Tenderness

Capo 3: (G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)
 B^b Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm

1 Sa - cred the bod - y God has cre - at - ed,
 2 Bod - ies are var - ied, made in all siz - es,
 3 Love re - spects per - sons, bod - ies and bound - aries.
 4 Ho - ly of ho - lies, God ev - er lov - ing,

(C) (D7) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)
 E^b F7 B^b Cm7 Fsus F

tem - ple of Spir - it that dwells deep in - side.
 pale, full of col - or; both frag - ile and strong.
 Love does not bat - ter, ne - glect, or a - buse.
 make us your tem - ples; in - dwell all we do.

(G) (Dsus) (D) (Em) (Bsus) (Bm)
 B^b Fsus F Gm Dsus Dm

Cher - ish each per - son; nur - ture re - la - tion.
 Ho - ly the dif - ference, gift of the Mak - er,
 Love touch - es gent - ly, nev - er co - erc - ing.
 May we be care - ful, ten - der and car - ing,

(C) (G) (Em) (Am7) (D) (G) (G)
 E^b B^b Gm Cm7 F B^b B^b

Treat flesh as ho - ly, that love may a - bide.
 so let us hon - or each sto - ry and song.
 Love leaves the oth - er with pow - er to choose.
 so may our bod - ies give hon - or to you.

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 833-218-4418
- Drop off or mail check to the church

- Scan this QR code



Offertory

Look at the World

John Rutter

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 #37

Let All Things Now Living

Ash Grove

G D G Am D

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing
 2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,

G C G D G

to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
 the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

G D G Am D

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains,

G C G D G

by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
 the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony G E Am D

God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

G Em D A7 D

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
 with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
as forward we travel from light into light.
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

**Benediction*

Postlude

Postlude on "Ellacombe"

Albert Travis

Worship Notes

- * Indicates worshippers are invited to stand as able.
- Large-print bulletins w/ hymns and hearing assistance devices are available; please see a deacon (with a red nametag) for assistance.
- There is no singular way to worship. Faithful responses to worship elements include silent reflection, "Amen," spontaneous clapping, and more.
- The Prelude and Postlude are transitional offerings for worshippers to first prepare for worship and then prepare for the world. Feel free to use these offerings to sit, listen, and reflect; or to enter/exit the service in fellowship.

Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive ~ Curious ~ Compassionate ~ Courageous

www.towsonpres.org || on socials @TowsonPres

Ministers
Pastor, Senior
Pastor, Associate
Director of Music and Organist

All the members of the church
Rev. Rob Carter
Rev. Joel Strom
Stephen Harouff

Director of Children, Youth, & Family
Director of Communications & Creative
Business Administrator
Mission Coordinator
Administrative Assistant
Sexton
Pastor Emeritus

Whitney Grimm
Andy Koo
Kathryn Bojanowski
Rev. Dr. David Britt
Barbara Patrick
Walter Austin
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! Whether you're exploring faith for the first time, new to the area, healing from a past church experience, or simply visiting, we'd love to connect. If you have questions or are looking for a next step, our Connection Team is just outside the rear of the sanctuary to help you explore and get involved. No rush, of course; we'll be here whenever you're ready.



Please either scan the QR code or fill out the Connect Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate when it passes or bring it to the Welcome Kiosk just outside the rear of the sanctuary.

TPC worships every Sunday at 10:00 a.m., both in the sanctuary and via livestream on Facebook, YouTube, and towsonpres.org. While children are *whole-heartedly* welcome in all services, our professionally staffed nursery is available for children ages 0–3 (see a deacon wearing a red nametag for directions). Children in worship are invited forward for a Children's Message mid-service before heading to Church School (pre-k – K, 1-2nd, 3-5th grade classes) in the education wing.

We celebrate your presence today and hope this time of worship deepens your sense of God's love for you.

Prayer List

Patricia Bickel, Jim Flick, Jennifer Gettier, Mandy Gordon, Bob Harvey, Barbara Kays, Michael Lathan, Ann Lehwald, Julie Mertus, Janet Novak, Alan Randolph, Janice Searles, Joan Strout, Mitzi Tyrie, Lee Weber. *Names are listed for three weeks unless otherwise requested.*

TPC News, Mission, & Ministries Updates

Assisting in Worship || Ross Bregel, Pat Keller*, Jim Kuhlman, Judith Rietz, Jeff Roum, Linda Shanks, Jeffrey Tobian



Earth Month || Celebrate Earth Month with us! Explore our daily calendar filled with simple ways to care for creation, grow in faith, and take meaningful action. There's something new each day!



Earth Care Action Team (ECAT) || Ongoing || This team seeks to support TPC in treating the earth more gently and encouraging lifestyles of consuming, conserving and sharing that promote a sustainable environment. Scan to learn more and join this team!

[Intergenerational Garden Team](#) || Come join us at the IGG across from TPC! We've already begun our work in the garden and are continuing with key projects, including rebuilding a raised bed, amending the soil, tidying flower beds, and planting more seeds and early crops. All ages are welcome!

Earth Day Sunday || Today we celebrate Earth Sunday at Towson Presbyterian Church! In worship, we give thanks for God's creation and our call to care for it.

Blue Jean Sunday || Today, 11:00am–1:00pm || Help us care for our building, grounds, and Intergenerational Garden! Wear your work clothes (e.g. blue to worship and stay after as we split up to tackle different projects around the church. Then stay for a provided lunch.

Overview of the Bible || Apr. 26, and May 3, 24 || After Worship || Chapel & [Zoom](#) || Join Dave Britt for a multi-session series exploring where the Bible came from, what's in it, and why it matters. Upcoming sessions focus on the Old and New Testaments. Registration is now available!

End of Earth Month: Reflection, Sharing & Next Steps || Sunday, May 3rd, 11:30am || Library || Join us to reflect on the TPC Earth Month Daily Reflections

calendar and other Earth Month activities, share insights, celebrate what we've learned, and consider next steps. Facilitated by Julia Gisewite and Carol Appleby.

Men's Group || Wed. May 6th, 7-8:15pm || Library || Join us for our final Men's Group gathering before we break for the summer. This is a relaxed and welcoming space to build relationships, share what's on your mind and heart, and reflect together on the Scriptures we've encountered in worship over the past month.

Mobility Equipment Closet Initiative || Our church offers equipment for those in need, including wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, bath chairs, bedside commodes, and toilet support bars. If you or a family member could benefit, please contact Dave Britt at mission@towsonpres.org.



Meals of Kindness || Ongoing || Join this group to receive occasional emails when meal support is needed within the congregation, each with a SignupGenius link and details. Participation is flexible - sign up whenever you're able to help.



Graul's Pickup for Coffee Hour & SCL || Ongoing || We'd love your help picking up food donations from Graul's Market in Ruxton! Please consider signing up for a date that works for you. More details are available on the sign-up page!



Church Center App || To stay connected in all things here at TPC, scan the QR code to download the TPC Church Center App! You can access event registrations, join groups, view our calendar, and more.

TPC This Week

Sun. 4/19:	9:00am	Contemplative Spirituality Group (Chapel)
	10:00am	Noah's Nursery, 0-4 (Lower Level)
	10:00am	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestream)
	10:15am	Church School (Children's Classrooms)
	11:00am	Blue Jean Sunday - Workday (Sanctuary)
	11:00am	Coffee Hour (Thompson Hall)
	11:15am	Overview of the Bible (Chapel & Zoom)
	12:00pm	Sunday Community Lunch (Thompson Hall)
Mon. 4/20:	10:00am	Bible Study: <i>Gospel of Luke</i> (Zoom)
Tue. 4/21:	10:30am	Staff Mtg. (Library)

1:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Nook)
6:30pm	Mission & Outreach Comm. Mtg. (Zoom)
7:00pm	CYFM Comm. Mtg. (Zoom)
7:30pm	Chancel Handbells (Sanctuary)

Wed. 4/22: 7:00pm	Session Mtg. (Zoom)
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