



Service of Worship

Fifth Sunday after Easter

May 3rd, 2026 || 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

*We do not come to God as those who have arrived,
but as those still on the way.*

*We come because we believe
that truth is worth seeking,
that Scripture still speaks it,
and that the Spirit still leads us toward it.*

*Open our hearts, O God,
to the truth of your way,
your will,
your love. Amen.*

Prelude

Allegro marziale e ben marcato

Frank Bridge

Welcome

**Call to Worship*

*Leader: We gather together to worship God,
ready for formation.*

People: We come not with polished answers,

but with questions, hopes, and searching hearts.
believing worship changes us.

*Leader: The ancient words of Scripture continue to speak to us,
not to overwhelm us, but to reorient us.*

**People: We listen, not for ease or comfort,
but for the voice that calls us deeper.**

*Leader: Amid the noise and confusion of our age,
we dare to seek a different way.*

People: Speak to us, O God. We are listening.

*Leader: We trust that God meets us in our searching,
already at work, already calling us by name.*

People: Grateful and expectant, let us worship God!

**Hymn #65*

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

**Invitation to Confess*

**Prayer of Confession*

God of Grace,
You have given us your word, your prophets,
and yourself in Christ,
calling us to walk in your ways.
Yet we persistently fall short of your love
in what we do and leave undone.
While Scripture speaks of your truth,
we often approach it with timidity,
as if it's beyond us;
or we come to it with certainty,
as if all that you are and desire
can be contained in texts alone.
Rather than approaching your word to be formed by it,
we read it quickly and listen poorly;
or we read it selectively
to confirm what we already believe,
instead of allowing it to challenge us.

Forgive us, O God.
Meet us in our honesty and confusion.
And in all our listening and wrestling,
draw us into the way of your truth, justice, and love.

~ silent reflection and confession ~

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: Celebrate the good news, friends!
God does not abandon us in our confusion or failings,
but meets us with grace and new life.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven,
and by God's grace we are being made new.
Thanks be to God!

**Response to Grace*

Hallelujah (Maraire)



GTG: #590

**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

Joshua 1-5, 10-11, 15-21

Pew Bible p. 197

OT

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

When Scripture Disturbs Us—Part I:
"Facing the Violence in Scripture"

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Hymn #451

My Eyes

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open



1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear.
 3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where.



Place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery - thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare love with thy chil - dren



set me free. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy
 dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy



will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!



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

Z. Randall Stroope

The Call

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

This is not our table, but Jesus', who invites all to his feast of grace. You are invited to come forward to receive a piece of gluten-free bread, dip it into the cup (juice), and partake. Sealed, allergy-friendly wafers and individual cups are available in a bowl on the table for those with dietary needs. If you prefer to remain seated, please raise your hand and a server will bring the elements to you.

The Prayer of Response

**Present God, thank you for inviting us
to your table of grace, and for nourishing us
with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
As you have filled our lives with love and hope,
now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may be a source of love and hope
for your world. Amen.**

Hymn #516

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Kingdom

1 For the bread which you have broken, for the
 2 By this promise that you love us, by your
 3 With the saints who now adore you seated
 4 In your service, Lord, defend us; in our

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace restored, by your call to heaven a -
 at the heavenly board, may the church still waiting
 hearts keep watch and ward; in the world to which you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - broken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

**Benediction*

Postlude
 Paul Manz

Postlude on "Cwm Rhondda"

Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive - Curious - Compassionate - Courageous

www.towsonpres.org || on socials @TowsonPres

Ministers

church

All the members of the

Pastor, Senior

Rev. Rob Carter

Pastor, Associate

Rev. Joel Strom

Director of Music and Organist

Stephen Harouff

Director of Children, Youth, & Fa

Whitney Grimm

Director of Communications & C

Andy Koo

Business Administrator

Kathryn Bojanowski

Mission Coordinator

Rev. Dr. David Britt

Administrative Assistant

Barbara Patrick

Sexton

Walter Austin

Pastor 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! 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, Paige Tyrie, Wendy Wallace, Lee Weber. *Names are listed for three weeks unless otherwise requested.*

TPC News, Mission, & Ministries Updates

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



Intergenerational Garden Team || Check out available slots on the IGG Sign-Up Genius (scan QR code). Watering times are flexible to fit your schedule and take about 45 minutes. No gardening experience is needed.

Overview of the Bible || **Today and May 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. Sessions focus on the Old and New Testaments. Registration is now available!

End of Earth Month: Reflection, Sharing & Next Steps || **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.

P5 Moms Connect Group || May 8th, 6:30-8:30pm || Bregel Home || Kick off Mother's Day weekend with a relaxed evening just for you. Enjoy a light dinner and beverages, followed by a fun white elephant swap you won't want to miss. All women who are pregnant or have children through fifth grade are invited. Registration is appreciated, but not necessary.

Gifts of Women || May 10th || Join us next Sunday as we celebrate the gifts of women in worship. The service will be female-led as we acknowledge and thank the women in our lives who show us God's love, especially those within the TPC community who contribute so faithfully their time, talents, and energy.

Veterans Remembrance Services || Later this month, there will be special services held at the **BeeTree Cemetery (Sat., May 23rd, 11am)** and at the **TPC Columbarium (Sun., May 24th, 11:30am)**. These services honor TPC's deceased military veterans. More details will be shared on May 17, and an updated Veterans Memorial Recognition Form is now available via QR code or on our website. Submitted names will be included in the May 24 bulletin.



Be a Neighbor @ ACTC || Sunday, May. 17, 1-3pm || All generations are welcome to make sandwiches at ACTC! This organization provides hundreds of sandwiches every week to share at the Prologue Homeless Outreach Program in Towson. Scan the QR code to sign up and learn more about the event!



Helping Hands || Ongoing || Everyone could use a helping hand now and then, right? We're excited to introduce Helping Hands, a new deacon-led initiative at TPC. At this time, we're looking for volunteers willing to provide temporary transportation support for church members. Scan here to join this new ministry!



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

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| Sun. 5/3: | 9:00am 10:00am 10:00am 10:15am 11:00am 11:20am 11:30am 11:30am 12:00pm | Contemplative Spirituality Group (Chapel) Noah's Nursery, 0-4 (Lower Level) Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestream) Church School (Children's Classrooms) Coffee Hour (Thompson Hall) Overview of the Bible (Chapel) BeeTree Comm. Mtg. (Conf. Rm) End of Earth Month: Reflection, Sharing & Next Steps (Library) Sunday Community Lunch (Thompson Hall) |
| Mon. 5/4: | 10:00am 4:00pm | Bible Study: <i>Gospel of Luke</i> (Zoom) Mary, Martha, and Me (Thompson Hall) |
| Tue. 5/5: | 10:30am 7:30pm | Staff Mtg. (Library) Chancel Handbells (Sanctuary) |
| Wed. 5/6: | 7:00pm | Men's Group (Library) |
| Thur. 5/7: | 7:30pm | Chancel Choir (Sanctuary) |
| Fri. 5/8: | 6:30pm | P5 Moms Connect Group (Bregel Home) |