a

TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inclusive ~ Curious ~ Compassionate ~ Courageous

# Service of Worship

## *25th Sunday After Pentecost*

November 15th, 2026 || 10:00 a.m.

*Permission to print and/or broadcast music is obtained through One License #A-728044.*

## 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***

*Gracious and loving God,*
*You have blessed us with the gift of life,*
*with opportunities to love and serve,*
*and with the promise of your presence.*
*Yet sometimes fear holds us back,*
*and we struggle to trust the possibilities before us.*
*As we gather in worship,*
*open our hearts to your Spirit.*
*Renew our courage, deepen our trust,*
*and remind us that our worth rests not in what we accomplish,*
*but in your abiding love. Amen.*

***Prelude*** *Impromptu, Op. 90, No. 3* Franz Schubert

***Welcome***

****Call to Worship***

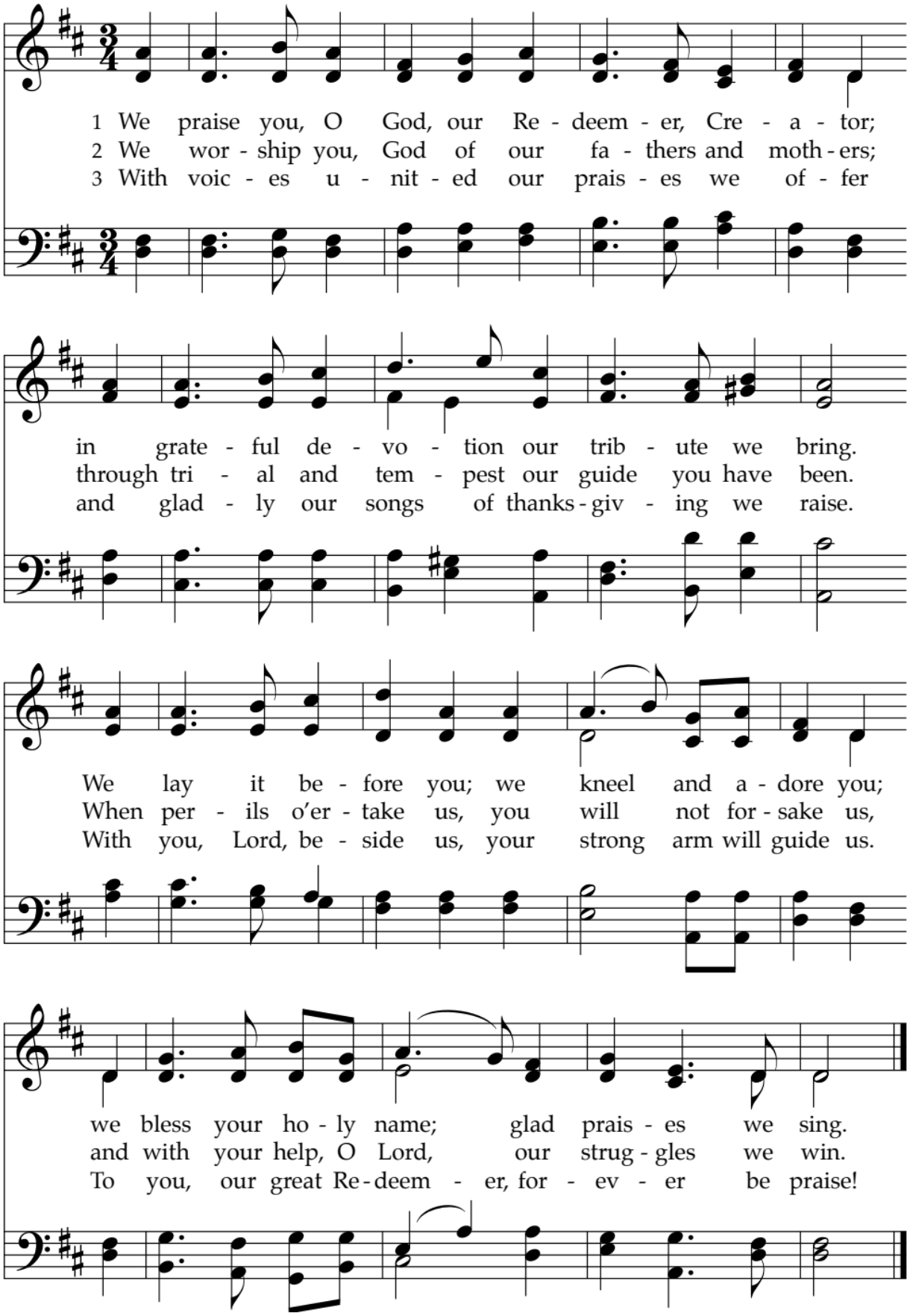
*Leader: God calls us into a life of faith, not a life governed by fear.*
**People: We come seeking courage to live with open hearts and willing spirits.**

*Leader:* *We have been entrusted with gifts to share, love to offer, and opportunities to serve.*

**People:** **May we use what we have been given for the flourishing of all.**

*Leader:* *We belong to the God of grace, who calls us to lives of courage, generosity, and love.*

**People:** **With grateful hearts and open hands, let us worship God!**

***Hymn #612** *We Praise You, O God* Kremser

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.
We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.
we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

***Invitation to Confess***
***Prayer of Confession***

Merciful God,
Jesus came revealing our gifts,
calling us to join your mission:
to love your people,
to serve the hurting,
to invest ourselves in your Kingdom.

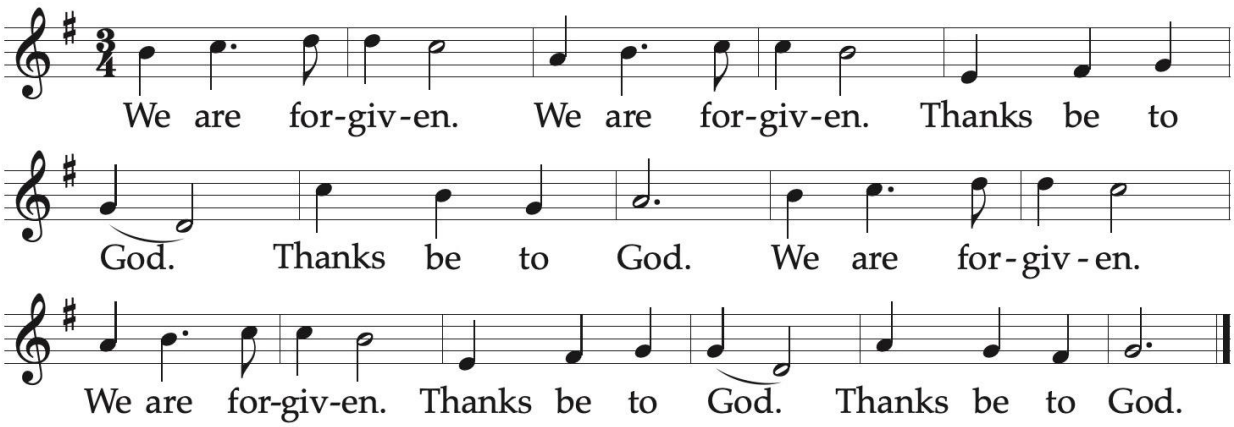
But we hesitate.
We question our worth,
doubt our gifts,
and resist such a high calling.
We tell ourselves you could not use what we bring.

Forgive us, O God,
for the love we have withheld,
and the peace we have ignored
because we feared reaching for them.
Turn us again toward your Kingdom.
Loosen our grip on comfort and control.
And grant us the courage
to scatter grace with abandon,
until we spend all of ourselves on your mission,
trusting you to multiply all that we offer
in ways we cannot yet fathom.

*~ silent prayers of confession ~*

***Assurance of Grace***

*Leader:* *Friends, rejoice!*
*God showers us with love and clothes us with grace,*
*inviting us into new life of freedom and promise.*
People: Thanks be to God! We are redeemed, blessed,
And set free to live the love of Jesus!

***Response to Grace*** We Are Forgiven

*GTG: #447*

***Passing of the Peace***

*Leader:* *The peace of Christ is a gift not to be kept, but shared.*
*People:* **May that peace fill our hearts and flow through our lives.**
*Leader:* *Let us share it together. May peace be with you.*
**People:** **And also with you.**

***Livestream Check-In***

*~ Children are invited to come forward~*

***Children's Message***

## Proclaim God's Word

***Prayer for Illumination***
***Scripture Lesson***

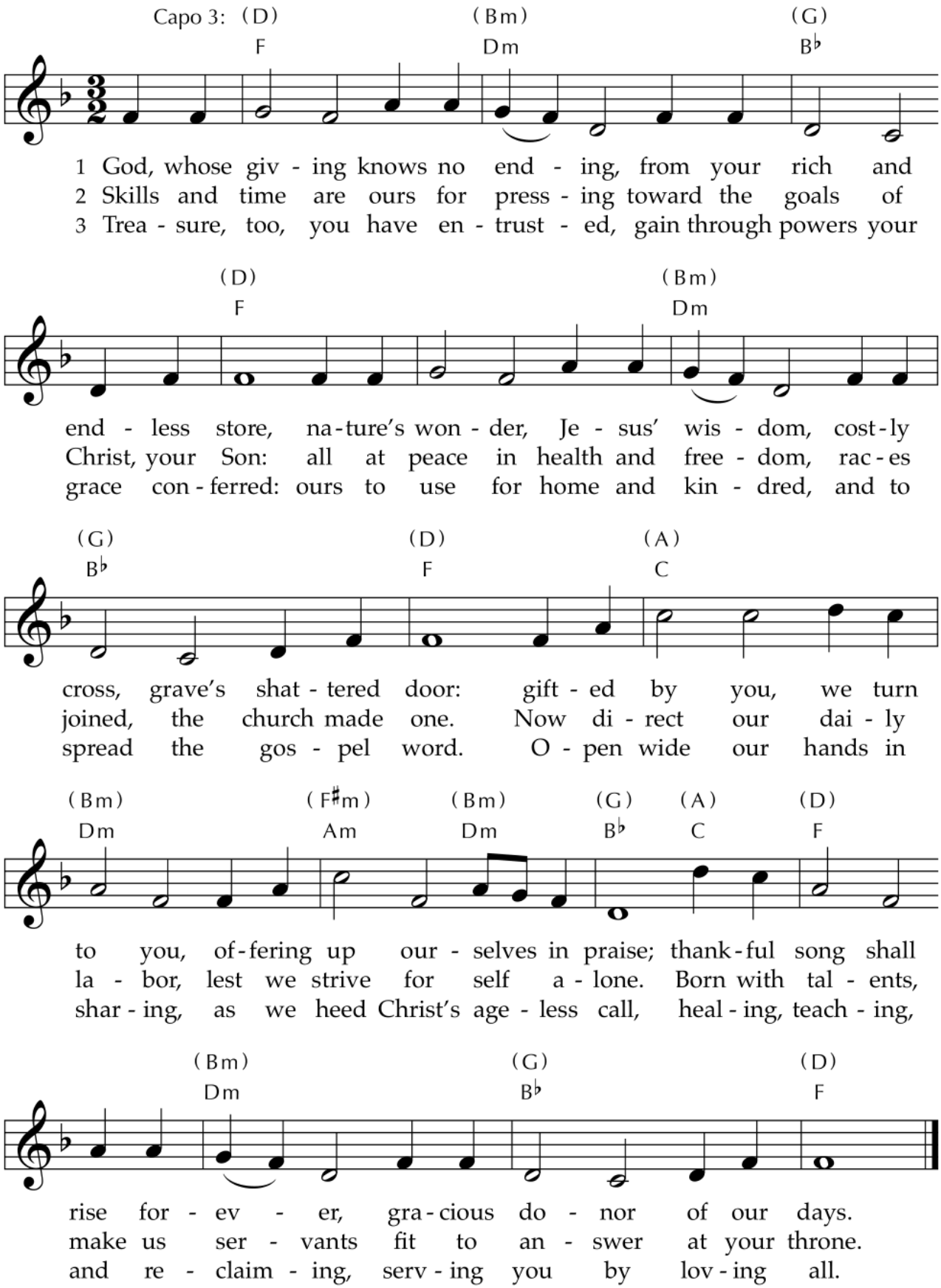
Matthew 25: 14-30 Pew Bible p. 28-29
NT

*For the word of God Scripture,*
*For the Word of God among us,*
*For the Word of God within us,*
**People: Thanks be to God.**

***Sermon*** The Greatest Risk of All

## Respond in Thanks & Faith

***Hymn #716*** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* Beach Spring


Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B♭
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your
(D) F (Bm) Dm
end - less store, na-ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost-ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac-es
grace con-ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to
(G) B♭ (D) F (A) C
cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in
(Bm) Dm (F♯m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B♭ (A) C (D) F
to you, of-fering up our - selves in praise; thank-ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,
(Bm) Dm (G) B♭ (D) F
rise for - ev - er, gra-cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

***Offering Our Gifts to God***

Ways to offer financial gifts

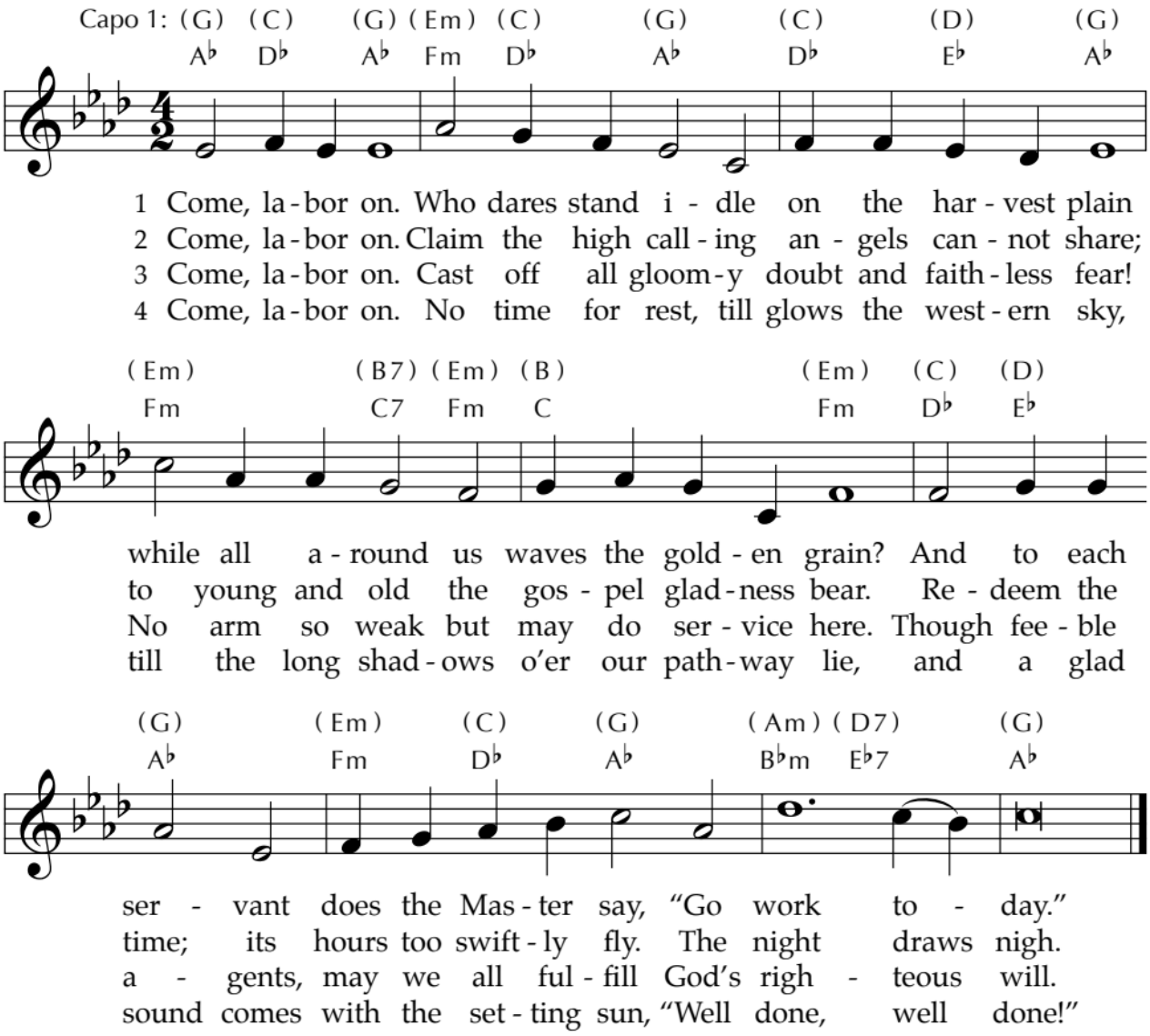
- Towsonpres.org – click the orange "Give" button at top of the page
- Text a dollar amount to 833-218-4418
- Drop off or mail check to the church
- Scan this QR code

***Offertory*** *The Call* Z. Randall Stroope

***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 #719*** *Come, Labor On* Ora Labora




***Benediction***

***Postlude*** *Tuba Voluntary* Paul Fey

---

# Towson Presbyterian Church

**Inclusive ~ Curious ~ Compassionate ~ Courageous**

www.towsonpres.org || on socials @TowsonPres

| | |
|---|---|
| Ministers | All members of the church |
| Pastor, Senior | Rev. Rob Carter |
| Pastor, Associate | Rev. Joel Strom |
| Director of Music and Organist | Stephen Harouff |
| Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry | Whitney Grimm |

| | |
|---|---|
| Director of Communications & Connections | Andy Koo |
| Business Administrator | Kathryn Bojanowski |
| Mission Coordinator | Rev. Dr. David Britt |
| Administrative Assistant | Barbara Patrick |
| Sexton | Walter Austin |
| Parish Associate | Rev. Dr. Harold Cahill |
| Parish Associate | Rev. Mary Gaut |
| Parish Affiliate | Rev. Mark Smiley |
| Pastor Emeritus | Dr. George Gray Toole |

**Our Mission:**

*Towson Presbyterian Church is called to cultivate curious disciples of Christ who grow in faith, strive for justice, care for creation, and embody God's inclusive love.*

Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) || Certified Earth Care Congregation || Affiliated with the Covenant Network of Presbyterians (seeking full equity for LGBTQ+ people in the life and ministry of the 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, asking questions, or returning after time away, you are genuinely welcome at TPC.

To connect with us or learn more, scan this QR code to complete a virtual Connect Card (or fill out a printed card from the pew rack), or stop by the Welcome Kiosk outside the sanctuary to receive a welcome gift! You can also use it to join our email mailing list and stay up to date on church news and events.

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m., in person and online. Children are always welcome, with a professionally staffed nursery and Church School available during the service. Stay after worship for Coffee Hour at 11:00 a.m.!

We celebrate your presence today and hope this time of worship helps you experience the depth of God's love for you.

---

## Prayer List

Patricia Bickel, Jim Flick, Melvin Heckstall, The Family of Harrison Rosenblum, Barbara Kays, Bob Latshaw, Ann Lehwald, The Mercer Family, Julie Mertus, Janet Novak, George Openhym, Claire Reisler, Joan Strout, The Family of Wendy Wallace.
*Names are listed for three weeks unless otherwise requested.*

---

## TPC News, Mission, and Ministry Updates

**Assisting in Worship:** Shirley Albert, Jason Fitzsimmons, Matt Hemm, Karen Morris*, Ro Nicolosi, Liz Piel, Judith Rietz, Paul Schwab.

**Birth Announcement** || Congratulations to Sarah Paluskiewicz and Andrea Sherman on the arrival of Gray Samuel Paluskiewicz! Grace was born on Monday, October 26. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Christmas Poinsettia Honorariums || Sunday, Nov. 8– Wed., Nov. 25** || Memorialize or honor your loved one by donating a chancel poinsettia this Advent. Forms are available online through Church Center or as paper copies in the Narthex. Completed paper forms may be returned to the church office. Names will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

**Awaiting Advent: Embracing Hope in Poetry, Music & Art || Sundays, Today & Nov. 22, 11:15am, Chapel || In-person & Zoom** || As we prepare for Advent, join David and Patricia Jackson for Embracing Hope, a reflection through poetry, music, and art. Explore how hope has inspired generations, shapes our lives today, and guides us into the future with faith. Available in person & Zoom. Register online!

**Monday Night Football #3 - Chargers v. Ravens || Nov. 16th, 8pm** || Our monthly gathering is back for another round of football, food, and fellowship! Join us for our third gathering of the season at Jason Fitzsimmons' house as we cheer on the Ravens against the Chargers!

**Christmas Wreath Fundraiser || Now–Sunday, Dec. 15th** || Support our youth by purchasing a holiday wreath through Lynch Creek Farm! Proceeds help fund summer conferences at Massanetta and Montreat. Scan the QR code to purchase!

**McKim Center Angel Tree || Now–Monday, Dec. 7 || Pick** up a gift tag in Thompson Hall or from the tree by the Chapel and help bless a child from the McKim Center this Christmas! A great family service opportunity. Gifts will be picked up on Dec. 8th

**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. 11/15:** | 9:00am | The Explorers (Thompson Hall) |
| | 10:00am | Noah's Nursery, 0–4 (Lower Level) |
| | 10:00am | Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestream) |
| | 11:00am | Coffee Hour (Thompson Hall) |
| | 11:15am | Awaiting Advent Poetry Event (Chapel) |
| | 11:30am | Confirmation Info Mtg. (Conference Room) |
| | 12:00pm | Sunday Community Lunch (Thompson Hall) |
| | 5:30pm | Youth Food Packing Event (Thompson Hall) |
| **Mon. 11/16:** | 10:00am | Monday Morning Bible Study (Zoom) |
| | 8:00pm | Monday Night Football #3 (Fitzsimmons Home) |
| **Tue. 11/17:** | 1:30pm | Prayer Shawl Ministry (Nook) |
| | 6:30pm | Mission & Outreach Comm. Mtg. (Zoom) |
| | 7:30pm | Handbells Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| **Wed. 11/18:** | 5:30pm | LOGOS (Thompson Hall) |
| | 7:00pm | Finance Comm. Mtg. (Zoom) |
| | 7:00pm | Session Mtg. (Zoom) |
| **Thur. 11/19:** | 8:00am | Men's Breakfast (Towson Diner) |
| | 7:00pm | Third Choir Thursday (Sanctuary) |
| | 7:30pm | Chancel Choir (Sanctuary) |