

***Prayer of Confession**

O God, the waters of baptism run deep;
so deep, we've been afraid they will overwhelm us.
The fire of your Spirit burns brightly;
so brightly, we fear being burned
if we display too much enthusiasm.
So we retreat to safe places
trying to avoid
challenges
and conflicts
and uncertainties.

Yet, we know that when we shrink from taking risks:
we miss your call to so much that enriches life;
and we fail to notice your amazing activity
among those who respond to your leading.

Free us, we pray, for daring, life-changing service.
Increase our awareness of baptismal identities,
that we might live in the confidence
as those you love, claim,
and bless to be a blessing.

- silent reflection and confession -

***Assurance of Grace**

Leader: Friends, the promise of baptism is true!
People: We are named and claimed, loved and forgiven!
Leader: New life is ours for the living.
People: There is nothing we can do that will separate us
from the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah!

***Response to Grace**

Gloria Patri

GTG: 381

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: In baptism, we are marked with the sign and seal of God's unconditional love for us. This peace is ours to live and share! Peace be with you.
People: And also with you.

- All are invited to share the "peace" of Christ with one another -

- Children are invited to come forward -

Children's Message (10:00)

- Children through Grade 5 are invited to the Education Wing -

Proclaim God's Word

**Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Reading**

Matthew 3: 7-12
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!

Joan Pugh
Pew Bible p. 3, N. T.

Sermon

Christian Storytelling – Part I:
“Baptism – The Beginning of the Story”

Respond in Thanks & Faith

Communal Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Scripture

Profession of Faith

Leader: People of God, in the covenant of baptism
you are united with Christ,
traveling with him from death to life.
Your past, your sin, your failures,
are washed away in these waters,
which cover you in nothing less than the love of God
and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

People: Our pride, our hypocrisy, our shame,
society's measuring sticks and other people's opinions
no longer have the power to define us.
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 baptismal covenant,
blessing you that you may be God's blessings in the world.

People: We give thanks to God that we would be so loved—
God's "beloved" children—
joined together in Christ by the Spirit's power.
Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Baptism

Reflections at the Font**

All are invited to approach a baptismal font at the front of the sanctuary. There, you are encouraged to remember and reflect on the promise of your baptism. Take time to see, feel, and hear the water along with all it conveys.

Suggestion: Pick the water up with your hand three (3) times, allowing it to gently fall back into bowl. As you do, say aloud:

“I am named. I am claimed. I am blessed to be a blessing.”

Charge

***Hymn #164** (10:00)

“Down Galilee's Slow Roadways”

West Main

**Call to Commitment
Offertory**

This Little Light of Mine

Spiritual/arr. John Work

***Doxology**

Pleading Savior

GTG: 717

***Hymn #488**

“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

Waterlife

***Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude on “Engelberg”

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

*Worshippers are invited to stand as able.

**There is a touch of bleach in each baptismal font for sanitation purposes.

***Large print bulletins with hymns and hearing assistance devices are available; please ask a deacon (with a red nametag) for assistance.

The Towson Presbyterian Church

Inclusive - Curious - Compassionate - Courageous

400 W. Chesapeake Ave., Towson, Maryland 21204

www.towsonpres.org 410.823.6500 tpc@towsonpres.org

Ministers	All the members of the church
Pastor, Senior	The Rev. Rob Carter
Pastor, Associate	The Rev. Joel Strom
Director of Music and Organist	Stephen Harouff
Director of Children and Family Ministry	Jeness Hall
Administrative & Communications Coordinator	Tara Flynn Runge
Business Administrator	Kathryn Bojanowski
Director, Towson Presbyterian Preschool	Leslie Foretich
Sexton	Walter Austin
Pastor Emeritus	The 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).

Let's connect:

Facebook @TowsonPres || Instagram @TowsonPres

New Here? Welcome—just as you are.

We're glad you're here! Thank you for coming. Please take a moment to note your name and email in the sign-in pad on the inside of each pew.

We'd cherish the chance to connect with you. Outreach Ministers (wearing blue nametags) will be standing near the pastors at the rear and front sanctuary exits after the 10 a.m. service to meet with any who'd like to learn a bit more about our church community. Please also explore the pamphlets in the pew racks or visit one of the two "Welcome Centers" located outside the rear of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall. You're warmly invited to any church event or program that may be of interest.

For your worshipping comfort, large-print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available at the rear of the sanctuary. Deacons (wearing red nametags) are happy to assist you.

While children are wholeheartedly welcome within all of worship, our professionally-staffed nursery is also available (see a deacon for directions). Church school (Pre-K – Grade 5) begins after the Children's Message.

Please join us after the 10 a.m. service for refreshments at our "Coffee Hour," located in the Fellowship Hall (bottom level next to the parking lot).

Thank you, again, for the blessing of your presence this morning.

Please pray for: Bob Adams, Mary Grace Byrne, Cindy Cole (JoAnn Brooks' sister), Barbara Davis, Lila Giroux (Patty Rath's granddaughter), Pat Hoopes, Angelyna Jones (Laura Howard's niece), Mike Just, Carol McCord, Julie Mertus, Jane Messimer, Gloria Roberts, Steve Tucker (Carter family), Stuart Tyrie (Mitzie's son) and Joye Wilhite. Names remain on prayer list for four weeks, unless otherwise requested.

Today at TPC

Assisting in Worship today are: Sandi Burt, Rob Culp, Alex Foley, Pat Keller, Kim Labrique, Ro Nicolosi, and Patty O'Brien.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Phyllis Gray and Bob Bickel in honor of our grandson, Cole Andrew Bickel's first birthday.

Sunday, January 12	Baptism of the Lord
8:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Childcare – Noah's Nursery
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary
10:15 a.m.	Church School – Education Wing
11:30 a.m.	Cherubs/Children's Choir – Room 212/Choir Room
11:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class – Youth Room
12:00 p.m.	Sunday Community Lunch – Fellowship Hall
2:00 p.m.	Mission Outreach Museum Tour – BMA
5:30 p.m.	Youth Group Meal – Fellowship Hall

Black Abstract Art Exhibit || Baltimore Museum of Art || Today, Jan. 12 at 2:00 p.m. || As a continuation of our *Waking Up White* study, a group will attend the BMA's current exhibit, *Generations: A History of Black Abstract Art*.

Electronic Giving || Text "CheerfulGiver" (one word; no spaces; case sensitive) to 73256 or scan the QR Code to the right. →



All God's People

Church-wide Book Study: We Make the Road by Walking || This week we read Ch. 20 – "Join the Adventure!"

Podcasts || Joel & Rob offer a weekly podcast on a chapter of We Make the Road by Walking || New this week: Ch. 20 || Towsonpres.org > Explore > Podcasts

Winter Small Groups || Diner's Club; Hiking; Meet to Eat; Tea Tasting; Intro to the Enneagram; Gun Violence; "We Make the Road By Walking" in Lent; and more. Register at towsonpres.org – or downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

Epiphany Stars || Didn't receive a star last week? Pick up your Epiphany Star for 2020 in the Narthex.

Amnesty International's "Write For Rights" Letter Writing Campaign || Sunday, January 19 at 11:00 a.m. || Fellowship Hall || Write letters on behalf of people who face relentless discrimination or were unjustly imprisoned || See <https://write.amnestyusa.org/> for more info.

MS & HS – Snow Tubing @ Roundtop || Friday, Jan. 26; 5:00-10:00 p.m. || \$28.00 and Roundtop Release Form due by Sunday, Jan. 19.

CPR/AED Course || Monday, Jan. 27, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. || Fellowship Hall || Become CPR/AED certified || Led by Scott Kuhlman, Heart to Beat, LLC || Registration limited to 50 people || Register online at towsonpres.org/events/. Contact Pat Keller (pat10keller@gmail.com) with questions.

TPC This Week

Monday, January 13	7:00 p.m.	Circle 13 – Appleby Home
Tuesday, January 14	10:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting – Nook
	2:00 p.m.	Worship, Music, & Arts – Library
	3:30 p.m.	Peabody Chorus
	7:00 p.m.	Property – Library
		Handbells Choir – Choir Room
Thursday, January 16	9:00 a.m.	TPC Men's Breakfast – Towson Diner
	2:00 p.m.	Encore Choral – Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	Third Thursday Choir – Choir Room
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir – Choir Room
		Troop 729(B) and Troop 1729(G) Committee
Saturday, January 18	1:00 p.m.	Memorial service for John Dillon – Sanctuary
		Reception – Fellowship Hall
Sunday, January 19	8:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Chapel
	9:30 a.m.	Childcare – Noah's Nursery
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary
	10:15 a.m.	Church School – Education Wing
	11:00 a.m.	Service Project – Fellowship Hall
	11:30 a.m.	Cherubs/Children's Choir – Room 212/Choir Room
	11:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class – Youth Room
	12:00 p.m.	Sunday Community Lunch – Fellowship Hall
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group Meal – Fellowship Hall
Monday, January 20		Church Offices Closed

The Service of the Lord's Day



Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Jan. 12, 2020 || 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Assemble in God's Name

We joyfully welcome you to worship this morning! All are invited to use the Prayer and Prelude as a time of silent preparation.

Prayer of Preparation

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 To Jordan came our Lord, the Christ J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome Rev. Joel Strom

Moment for Mission Phyllis Gray

*Call to Worship Jenness Hall

Leader: Baptized to begin lives of faith,
People: we would witness to all God is doing in our midst,
in our communities, in our world.

Leader: Baptized to speak,
People: we would speak up for the voiceless;
we would pursue justice for those who have none.

Leader: Baptized to serve,
People: we would heal and not hurt;
we would bless and not curse.

Leader: Baptized to do what is right,
People: we would not play favorites,
but treat each and all as God's Beloved.

*Hymn #485 "We Know that Christ is Raised" Engelberg