

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 19, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Live streamed at 11:00 a.m.



THANKS BE TO GOD!



Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
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A Church for all People

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

() Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

+Facemasks are currently optional. If you have a vulnerable health condition or just prefer to wear a mask, please feel free to do so.

Health and Safety Committee.

Preparation for the Word

Let the Prelude's music open you to God's presence as we begin worship.

*"Against all odds and past history, we are loved and chosen,
and do not have to get it together before we show up."
-Anne Lamott*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

O God, Our Help

William Croft
Arr. Gordon Young

Welcome

Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy God, we need your courage to keep practicing your way of love and reconciliation. Help us stay the course when we want to give up. Stir our hearts, move our feet, rock our world. We're ready, we're willing, we're open. Help us to keep changing ourselves so we can partner with you in changing the world into your Beloved Community. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Call to Worship *Responsively*

Lord, you have been our dwelling place;

We come today to rest in you.

You have been the voice that guides us;

We come today to listen

You have been the host who feeds us;

We come today to be filled.

You have been our joy and crown;

We come today to sing your praise!

***Opening Hymn 409** **God is Here!**

Prayer of Confession

We know that our sins are too heavy for us to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. But we also know that you can lift that weight from us and transform our lives. So we lift our prayer of confession to you.

The Lord be with you. **Also with you.** Let us pray:

Merciful God, we confess that once again we have missed the mark of walking in your way. We've made mistakes. We've made missteps. We've hurt people by action and inaction. We have wounded creation by action and inaction. We have chosen our ways over yours. And if the sum total of what we have done and what we have not done, has not brought glory and honor to you, then we ask that you turn us towards the way of justice and peace. Forgive our past and shape our future that we might bear witness to your realm of shalom.

In the strong name of Christ, we pray.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! Who is our God?

The Holy One, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

We are forgiven, rescued, and redeemed.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Praise 582 (v.1) Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning , is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Worshippers on Zoom may unmute themselves and share the peace.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination 458

Thy word is a Lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2x)

First Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Anthem

Sanctus
(Holy Is the Lord)

Johann Sebastian Bach
Arr. Tom Fettke

Time with the Children

Scott Ward

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:14-16

Reflection on the Word

Sermon

Let Your Light Shine
Testimonies of Servant Leadership

Testimonials by:

Dr. Samuel Kalibala, Madline Morsha-Taylor,
Thomas Showalter

***Hymn 767**

Together We Serve

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Rev. John Seaman

*Prayers will be read from the Prayer Book and invited from
the congregation and the Zoom "Chat Box"*

Prayer Response: God of Grace, we give you thanks.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

O Holy Trinity of Love,

Holy are you and holy is your name.

May your shalom come and your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us our daily bread, and forgive our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.

Walk with us through times of trial and save us from evil.

For the Beloved Community, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Offering Invitation

*The offering plate reminds us of the many contributions we all make to our
church and God's realm. Please pass it to your neighbor and offer thanks for
each other's gifts.*

Offertory

Air from, Water Music Suite

George Frederic Handel

*Doxology 606

Old HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow:

Praise Christ all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule for upcoming events

** Zoom events

Monday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Tuesday, November 21, 12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour**
Wednesday, November 22, 8:15 p.m.	Presbyterians for Police Transformation*
Thursday, November 23	Happy Thanksgiving Day
Sunday, November 26, 11.00 a.m.	Worship Service (<i>hybrid</i>)

+Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, **you are welcome to our worship.** We are pleased you are with us today.

+**Please continually pray for peace** - - in our homes, neighborhoods, the nation and the world.

+Just Thanks Potluck - Today

Join us after worship for good food, fun and fellowship at the JUST THANKS potluck! All welcome - let's gather to share stories and give thanks for our many blessings.

+Advent Choral Service

The Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Choir and Friends will present **Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*** for service on December 3, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. Although this much-loved choral work was probably written around 1715, it remained relatively unknown until its revival in 1939 when it was presented in an Italian performance by Alfred Casella.

Since then, it has enjoyed a well-founded popularity that now places it second only to Handel's Messiah as a special Christmas choral event. Written for soprano and contralto soloists, choir and orchestra, it subdivides the traditional words of the Gloria from the Roman Catholic Mass into twelve short movements, bringing a Baroque freshness and perspective to their meaning.

This work will be supplemented by two Christmas carols written by James Bingham: *O Jesus Sweet* and *Dormi Jesu*, the second of which is taken from the larger work, **Procession and Carols.**

All works will have orchestral accompaniment.

Please plan to attend this special service and encourage your friends to come with you.

+We need **volunteers to host coffee hour!** Hosting is easy and fun. Help support this important time of fellowship and sharing by signing up to host coffee hour - pick your Sunday and signup using this signup genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BAFAD23A0FDC61-tppc>:

Questions contact rogergriffis61@gmail.com or 301-980-4694 Thank you!

+**2024 Stewardship Campaign.** Thank you thank you to everyone who submitted their pledges on Commitment Sunday! We're off to a great start toward our goal of 90 pledges to fund the church operations and missions in 2024. If you haven't pledged yet, please consider what you can give to support the life and work of this church community. Pledging is easy - fill out one of the pledge cards in the pews or pledge on-line at the [TPPC pledge webpage https://www.takomaparkpc.org/tppconlinepledge](https://www.takomaparkpc.org/tppconlinepledge). Your generous support will help keep this church community alive and well!

+**Advent Services:** Please join us for our Advent Worship Services, on Wednesday December 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00 p.m.

+**Thank you for your continued support of TPPC.**

As a reminder, there are several ways to give to TPPC. Information on giving, including giving online, can be found at

<https://www.takomaparkpc.org/give>.

Checks may be mailed to

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church,
310 Tulip Avenue,
Takoma Park, MD 20912.

If you have questions, please contact finance@takomaparkpc.org.

Month at the Migrant Resource Center



Ruth Noel and her husband, Ray Nosbaum volunteered at the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in Agua Prieta, MX, in September 2023. While in Dougla-Prieta, they stayed in Douglas, AZ at the Frontera de Cristo office, a Presbyterian border mission.

Helping at the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) was a lesson in expecting the unexpected, in how to be present in the moment, and in being flexible so we could remain full of gratitude. When we arrived at MRC for our shift, we could never be sure who or what situations we would encounter.

During a regular shift, usually 4 hours, there are times when no migrants entered allowing time to sort, fold and organize donated clothing and do a thorough cleaning of the center, especially the bathroom. There is also time to talk with fellow volunteers and staff and mutually share about our lives as well as the background on current circumstances affecting migration, especially circumstances directly impacting the situation at MRC. There were also entertaining times when we all tried to eliminate the flies (The joke being that for each fly gone; seven come for the funeral.)

Other times it was so busy that we rarely sat. We would orient new migrants to both the free services of the center and about the process of seeking asylum in the USA. We regularly encouraged migrants to apply for entry into the USA through the CPB One app. We would show migrants the locations on the US maps where their family members and sponsors lived. There was coffee to make; beans to cook, puree, re fry, and then sandwiches to make; giving out food and washing dishes; providing first aid and medicines for minor ailments; helping migrants choose a change of clothing before showering; ensuring they had a dry towel, soap and shampoo to shower; showing them the setup for washing and hanging clothes out to dry; boiling water for a baby or young child's bath and more.

We strove to be fully present, listening to those who chose to share their stories, hope, gratitude, frustration, fears, pain, grief or occasionally anger.

At times we could join the children who were thrilled to be active and have fun—swing on the swings, use dominos as building blocks, laughter when the structure fell, to run around, play soccer or toss a football, color in coloring books, or on the cement patio with chalk including playing tic tac toe and hopscotch.

Mixed in among all of this were visitors coming to learn of the work of MRC; to bring donations of clothing, food and or supplies; or to seek assistance in how to locate family members who entered the USA when they had no or disturbing news about family members who were now separated from them. While engaged in these direct and immediate activities, we were constantly trying to understand the position/role of MRC in the context of the whole USA/Mexican migrant picture and trying to make the MRC a beacon of light for migrants who pass through Agua Prieta.



As we returned each day to Douglas on the US side, we would pass by the migrants living on the street whom we had served at the MRC. Of course, they would see us. What did they feel seeing us pass so easily because we were US citizens and could go where we wanted.

Now back at home, Ray resumes working with CHEER in the Long Branch community to maintain affordable housing for those impacted by the Purple Line which will bring increased housing and other costs. We wonder what it must be like for the many immigrants who live in this community to again experience or relive the trauma of getting here as economic forces may yet again displace them.

We remember the joy of constantly being with others in-person, not on-line, building relationships. Now at home, we try to continue being in-person as we share stories of our experiences volunteering at MRC and letting folks know what a privilege it is to get know, share and learn from the dedicated and amazing people we met--whether staff, volunteers or migrants. We were and remain grateful for how accepting and generous local staff and volunteers were towards us!

