

Leader: This morning, we gather in special celebration of Earth Day Sunday, recognizing the particular covenant God has established with us in this time and place, Towson Presbyterian Church, to tend to all that God has made.

Description of TPC's Earth Care Ministries this past year (10:00)
Children's & Family Ministry, Youth Ministry, Adult Formation, Property, Mission Outreach, and Worship

Presentation of Certificate (10:00)

Leader: Behold the difference that is made when the people of God strive for God's kingdom.

People: In these, and so many other ways, we demonstrate our love of God through our love of creation.

Leader: It is my joy to present to Towson Presbyterian Church the 2018 Earth Care Congregation Certificate from the PC(USA).

Prayer (10:00)

***Hymn #18** "Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator" Nyanykanlah Nyanyian Baru

***Invitation to Confess**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we confess that for many of us the history of how we came to be *here* is more complex than we understand.

We've lost our connection to our local habitat—to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and all the creatures that trot and crawl around us.

We've lost our connection to the dirt under our feet—the very substance into which you breathed life.

Our indifference and neglect belie our love for your world.

Transform us, O God, and give us roots.

Empower us to discover anew the grandeur and dignity within all you have made.

Open our eyes to the seeds and creatures that have grown here for millennia and the intentional care you've taken in crafting our world.

May we be rooted in our appreciation for all you have made, and may our care for it all reveal our love for you.

- silent reflection and confession. -

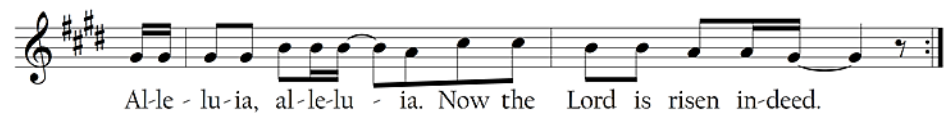
***Assurance of Grace**

Leader: There is nowhere we can run to escape God's love and compassion.

People: In the generous grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and invited into the meaningful work of following after Jesus in this time and place. Amen!

***Response to Grace**

Honduras Alleluia



GTG: #589

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you..."
Friends, may the peace of Christ 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 Middle School are invited to the Education Wing -

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Ann Lehwald

Scripture Reading

1 John 3: 16-24 (Pew Bible pp. 241-2, N.T.)

Leader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word;

People: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading

John 10: 11-18 (Pew Bible pp. 103-4, N.T.)

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

Building A Church—Part 2
"The Ethic of Love"

Respond in Thanks & Faith

***Hymn #757** (10:00) "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" Kingsfold

***Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith (adapted)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community. But we rebel against God. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. Like a mother who won't forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

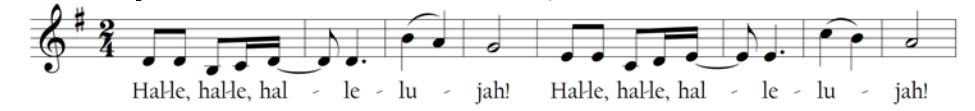
Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

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.

Call to Commitment

Offertory

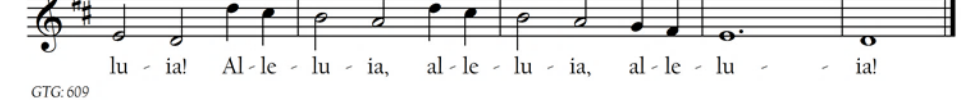
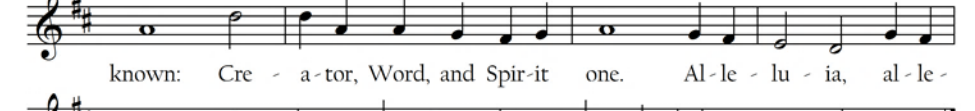
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



GTG: 591

***Doxology**

Lasst Uns Erfreuen



GTG: 609

***Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: Holy Creator, resurrection reveals all the new life you are still creating.
We gather our gifts in thankful response.

People: We give not just our treasure, but also our perspectives,
that you might help us see the way our care for Creation
gives witness to our love for you.

***Hymn #23** "God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" Pleading Savior

***Benediction**

Postlude

Festive Postlude

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

*Worshippers are invited to stand as able.

**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

400 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204
www.towsonpres.org 410.823.6500 tpc@towsonpres.org

Ministers
Pastor, Senior
Pastor, Associate
Director of Music and Organist
Director of Children and Family Ministry
Administrative & Communications Coordinator
Business Administrator
Director, Towson Presbyterian Preschool
Childcare Coordinator
Sexton
Pastor Emeritus

All the members of the church
The Rev. Rob Carter
The Rev. Joel Strom
Stephen Harouff
Jeness Hall
Tara Flynn Runge
Kathryn Bojanowski
Leslie Foretich
Kyanne Fields
Walter Austin
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*
TPC is a member of the *Covenant Network* (striving for a fully inclusive church).

+
Let's connect - 🍷 "Like" TPC on Facebook @TowsonPres

+
Please Pray for: Davis Barkley (Roxanne Maffit Harvey's grandson), Barbara Beard (Leslie Strawhand's sister), Barbara Davis, Elsie DeGarmo Smith, Jeff Facello, the Gray-White Families, Betsy Griffin, Jackson Herbert, Chrissie Kahan, Julie Mertus, Michael Strawhand (Leslie's son). *Names remain on prayer list for four weeks, unless otherwise requested.*

The sympathy of the congregation and our resurrection faith are extended to Judith and Rachael, for John Rietz, who entered eternal salvation on April 17.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given by Alan and Ruth Anne Randolph in memory of Alan's mother, Thelma Randolph, and Sandi Burt in gratitude for the TPC lay leaders' Faith Formation Ministry.

Today at TPC

Assisting in Worship today are: Charlie Conklin, Mike Just, Cass Mairs, Jennifer Sheggrud, Patsy Stein, and Dianne Thompson.

Electronic Giving: text "CheerfulGiver" to 73256 or scan the QR Code to the right. To note an electronic gift during the Offertory, you may place an "I give online" card (in pew rack) in the offering plate.



Sunday, April 22 – Blue Jean Sunday

8:30 a.m.	Early Worship Service – Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary Heartlights Class
10:15 a.m.	Church School
11:15 a.m.	Fellowship – Thompson Hall Blue Jean Sunday Clean-up projects; planting IGG MS & HS Youth groups participate in Blue Jean projects
12:00 p.m.	SCL – Thompson Hall
12:30 p.m.	Congregational Lunch – Thompson Hall

All God's People

Schedules to note: Tara Runge will be on vacation 4/18 – 4/24. Kathryn Bojanowski will be out of the office 4/26 & 4/27.

Planting for Pollinators & the Perils of Pesticides || Mon., April 23, 7:00 p.m. || Chapel || The TPC Inter-Generational Garden committee and the Southland Hills Garden Club present this free talk for home gardeners.

Visioning the Future || Sun., April 29, 11:30 a.m. || Library

All who haven't participated in an Appreciative Inquiry interview are invited to a Cottage Meeting on 4/29. Participants will be asked what they believe are some of TPC's core characteristics, most valuable ministries, and their greatest hopes for our congregation's future. Please sign-up in Thompson Hall.

ACTC Benefit Concert || Sun., April 29, 3:00 p.m. || TPC Sanctuary
TPC's Chancel Choir will be joined by choirs from the area for a concert benefiting the ministries of the Assistance Center of Towson Churches.

Congregational Meeting || Sun., April 29 at 11:00 a.m. || Sanctuary
Called to receive the report of the 2018 Nominating Committee and elect new officers of the church.

Children and Youth

Spiritual Practices for Families || Wed., May 2 & 16, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Parents and their children, preschool-grade 5, are invited to TPC for this 2-part series. Dinner for everyone will be served from 6:00-6:30 p.m. in Thompson Hall. Then parents will gather with co-leaders, Jenness Hall and Katie Cashin, to discuss how spiritual practices can be implemented by families, while children gather upstairs in the Gym and Youth Room for a program led by Pastor Joel, youth and adults. Sign up: www.towsonpres.org

MS Youth Group || Sun. April 29 at 4:30 p.m. || Youth Room

HS Youth Group || Sun., April 29 at 6:00 pm || Youth Room

Adult Spiritual Formation

The Wired Word || Sun., April 29, May 6 & 20, 11:30 a.m. || Join facilitator Chuck LaBerge and others as we approach a current event ripped from the headlines, ask questions, lay it alongside Scripture and explore it together.

Season 9 underway in the InterGenerational Garden - so we need YOU!

We need volunteers throughout the rest of the season to water, harvest and weed. Come spend some time in this lovely corner of God's creation. You can sign-up for one or more dates that work for you, either through the IGG Sign-Up Genius (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caca2da6fb6-2018>), or by contacting Carol (carolappleby@comcast.net)

TPC This Week

Monday, April 23	7:00 p.m.	"Planting Pollinators" Talk – Chapel
Tuesday, April 24	10:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting – Library
	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl – Library
	7:00 p.m.	Handbells – Choir Room
Wednesday, April 25	11:15 a.m.	Communications Team – Library
	5:30 p.m.	TPP Ice Cream Social – Thompson Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Session – Library
Thursday, April 19	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts – Youth Room
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir – Choir Room
Saturday, April 28	9:00 a.m.	Intergenerational Garden Work Day – Garden
Sunday, April 29	8:30 a.m.	Early Worship Service – Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary Heartlights Class
	10:15 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 p.m.	Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship – Thompson Hall
		Cottage Meeting – Library
	11:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class – Youth Room "Wired Word" Discussion – Conference Room
		Camp BeeTree Committee – Heartlights
	12:00 p.m.	SCL – Thompson Hall
	3:00 p.m.	ACTC Benefit Concert – Sanctuary
	4:30 p.m.	M.S. Youth Group – Youth Room
	6:00 p.m.	H.S. Youth Group – Youth Room

The Service of the Lord's Day



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 22, 2018

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 Reflection

God the Creator, we come in awe of you;
overwhelmed by the wonder of your creation;
amazed by the beauty of your world;
astonished that such a God would care so much for us,
even entrusting your creation to our care!
So we gather to express our thanks.
In these moments of worship and praise, we ask that you
renew and refresh us;
challenge and change us;
May our lives testify to our love for you;
may our care for your world sing your praise!

Prelude Introduction to "Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator" (Hymn #18)

Welcome

Rev. Carter

Earth Care Celebration

Procession
Creation Litany

Leader: *The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it.*

People: **For God is the Creator of all that is!**

Leader: *God has made the heavens and the earth, the waters and the sky.*

People: **God has made the flowers that blossom and bloom, the vines that spread and climb, the trees that grow and stand, the plants that yield harvest and fruit.**

Leader: *God has made the creatures that creep and crawl, that walk and run, that swim and fly.*

People: **God has made us, inviting us to enjoy the beauty of Creation amid our call to care for it.**