



Welcome to our church!

We're glad you're here! We hope you experience the warmth and welcome of Christ our Savior in this community.

If this is your first time visiting, please fill out a **Visitor's Card**. We would love to meet you and help you get connected. Please visit tcpca.org/visitor or scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone camera, or fill out the Visitor Card in your pew and place it in the Offering bowl.



Officers On Duty Today's points of contact for spiritual or physical needs.

Elder on duty:

Ken Iverson

Deacons on duty:

Tim Meador and Josh Owen

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship...

“We are a people who worship Jesus Christ. Let that sink in, for there are places in the world where that will get you killed. We don't just admire Him, or follow Him, or swear allegiance to Him. We worship Jesus. We worship Him as the eternal, uncreated, omnipotent, all-wise, Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of the universe. He is God, one with the Father and the Spirit. And we worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit — one God, in three divine persons. We worship Jesus.”

- John Piper

COVER ARTWORK

Photo by Magda Vrabetz

Liturgy Notes

Do you have questions about how we worship? This column answers the “what” and “why” of each element of our liturgy.

PLEASE NOTE:

During responsive readings, the part of the Leader will be in plain text, **and the part of the People will be in bold.**

Call to Worship

The Call to Worship is traditionally the first element in a Christian liturgy, serving as the moment of consecration. God’s Word is used to invite us into the sacred time of corporate worship, and we respond with our voices as an answer to His call.

Congregational Singing

A unique aspect of Christian worship is that we sing together. Our singing is an expression of love for God and joy in His gospel. Singing strong hymns grounded in the truths of our theology raises our eyes from awe of the created to awe of the Creator. Scripture commands us to sing. Beautiful voices are not required, but a community joining together to sing truth and to sing it with passion and conviction is beautiful to our God.

Order of Worship

April 30, 2023 at 9:00AM and 11:15AM

REJOICE Declare the praises of God

Call to Worship

Before Abraham was, I AM

From everlasting to everlasting You are God

I am the Light of the World

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light

I am the Bread of Life

Lord, Give us this day our daily bread

I am the Door

Oh, that You, Lord, would rend the heavens and come down.

I am the True Vine

Lord, Give us drink from the river of Your delights

I am the Good Shepherd

Lord, Lead us to green pastures and beside still waters

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

Lord, strengthen us to take up our cross and follow You.

I am the Resurrection and the Life

Oh Lord, give us abundant life we pray!

Hymn *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Walter Chalmers Smith

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Immortal invisible God only wise

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes

Most blessed most glorious the Ancient of Days

Almighty victorious Thy great name we praise

Unresting unchanging and silent as light

Nor wanting nor wasting Thou rulest in might

Thy justice like mountains high soaring above

Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love

To all life Thou givest to both great and small

In all life Thou livest the true life of all

We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree

And wither and perish but naught changeth Thee

(continue on next page)

Great Father of glory pure Father of light
Thine angels adore thee all veiling their sight
All praise we would render O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn *Rock Of Ages*

Augustus Montague Toplady | Thomas Hastings
©Public Domain

Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

RENEW Receive the grace of God

Scripture Reading Joel 2:21-27 (Pew Bible p. 762)

All men are like grass, their glory like flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, **but the Word of the Lord stands forever.**

Confession of God's People

In the Confession of Sin we humbly agree with Scripture's claim that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. This is the most honest moment of our week, as we confess our sin and shame together. We do this corporately through a unison litany or prayer and individually through a moment of silence for private confession.

Repentance of God's People

Our time of confession becomes a time of fresh commitment through corporate repentance. Together we boldly turn from all evil and offer our lives again to God. Only say these words if you are indeed willing to repent of your sins.

Assurance of God's Pardon

Confession and repentance is always met with the surety of God's grace. The minister proclaims to the penitent community words of pardon from Scripture, assuring our hearts of the grace that is already ours in Christ Jesus.

Confession of God's People

Merciful Lord, we have resisted Your light and knowledge, conscience and conviction, law and love. We ask Your pardon on all our sins.

Sins of yesterday, today and tomorrow;

of omission and commission,

of hard-heartedness, unbelief, presumption, and pride,

of lack of bold decision in the cause of Christ,

of failure to proclaim the gospel with zeal,

of bringing dishonor upon Thy great name,

of deception, injustice, and untruthfulness toward others,

of impurity in thought, word, and deed.

For sins known and unknown, felt and unfelt, confessed and unconfessed, remembered and forgotten, we plead Your gracious pardon. Hear our prayers, O merciful Lord.

- Silent Prayers of Confession -

Repentance of God's People

Do you turn from the sin of seeking to guide your life apart from God's grace?

We do.

Do you repent of not seeking the Lord's wisdom in all parts of your life?

We do.

Assurance of God's Pardon

 from Romans 8:34 and 2 Corinthians 5:17

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us. Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. If anyone is in Christ, he becomes a new person altogether—the past is finished and gone, and everything has become fresh and new.

Greeting of the Peace of Christ

Hymn *O Church Arise* (Sheet Music on Page 10)

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend
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O church arise and put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle cry is Love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him

So Spirit come put strength in every stride
Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

Confession of Faith The Nicene Creed

Confession of Faith

We confess together the convictional truths of orthodoxy by reciting the ancient creeds of our faith. We share these words with saints throughout the centuries as well as those throughout the world today. This also serves as a bold proclamation to the watching world of what we believe is true.

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic[†] and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

[†] *Worldwide communion of faith, past, present, and future.*

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Offering

The offering is received, not merely as a way to pay the bills, but as an act of worship. In response to the God from whom all blessings flow, we give freely, joyfully, and sacrificially to His beloved bride, the Church.

Hymn *Gentle Shepherd (Psalm 23)* **(Sheet Music on Page 11)**

Erik Dewar
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Gentle Shepherd, walk beside me, for with You I shall not want.
With Your presence cheer and guide me; along the path forsake me not.
By the waters gently lead me; in the pastures let me lie,
For in faithfulness You feed me, and by Your grace my needs supply.

Gentle Shepherd, come restore me; let me walk in righteous paths.
For Your name lead on before me, and guide me in Your sovereign plans.
Through the valley, Lord, be near me, then no evil shall I fear.
In Your mercy stoop to hear me, when in the dark I lift my pray'r.

(continue on next page)

Gentle Shepherd, now sustain me, at the table You prepare.
In the sight of those who hate me, Your blessings flow beyond compare.
Surely Love shall e'er pursue me, though I wander far away.
In Your house, O Lord, renew me, where I shall dwell for all my days,
Where I shall dwell for all my days.

GOSPEL STORYTIME

At this time, children ages 4 - Kindergarten may be dismissed to Room 103 for prayer, singing, and a lesson from the Gospel Story Bible. They will return to the Sanctuary at the end of the sermon to be with their families during Communion.

Scripture Reading John 10:1-10 (p. 896)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Rev. Will Witherington

“Abundant Life, Really?”

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PLEASE NOTE:

You will be released from your pew to come forward and receive the communion elements, and we will take the elements together once everyone has been served.

Words of Institution

Let us together proclaim the hope of the Church:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again!

I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper, He took the cup saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

Holy Communion

Sermon

The preaching of God’s Word in the context of holy worship is the primary means of God’s voice to His people. Our trust is not in the ability of the preacher, but in the promise that God, by His Spirit working in and through His word, is speaking to us in exceptional ways. Therefore, we open our minds and hearts to the uniquely formative power of ordained preaching.

Communion

The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is a holy ordinance, wherein Christ and his gospel are represented and applied to His people. Though the bread and wine are not literally the body and blood of Jesus, this meal is far more than a sentimental reminder. It is spiritual nourishment to our souls and a means of growth in His grace. Communion is the family meal of Christians, and all followers of Jesus who are in good standing with His Church are invited to partake.

Hymn *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

John Newton | Chris Tomlin | Louie Giglio
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Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

REFRAIN:

*My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures **(REFRAIN)**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine **(REFRAIN)**

Benediction

Go love your God. **Go love your neighbor.**



Giving Report For more information, visit tcpca.org/give.

March Giving: \$194,849
March Goal: \$191,017
Difference: +\$3,832

FY Giving from Oct-Mar: \$1,361,307
Giving Goal for Oct-Mar: \$1,446,275
Difference: -\$84,968

FY Giving Goal (Oct-Sep): \$2,728,820

Prayer Chain

If you would like to share prayer requests with our church prayer chain, we would love to pray for you. Please feel free to send an email to:

Kathryn Lyon
KRL40502@aol.com

Janet Whitley
janetjwhitley@gmail.com

ACCESS Prayer Group

The Access Prayer Group meets each Thursday at noon to pray for our church and our community. Send prayer requests to:

Mary Beth Moore
mdmoorefamily@gmail.com

O Church Arise

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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O church, a - rise, and put your ar - mor on, hear the
Our call to war: to love the cap - tive soul, but to
Come see the cross where love and mer - cy meet as the
So Spi - rit come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give —



call of Christ our Cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
rage a - gainst the cap - tor. And with the sword that makes the
Son of God is strick - en. Then see His foes lie crushed be -
grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle. That we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has gi - ven. With shield of
woun - ded whole, we will fight with faith and va - lor. When faced with
neath His feet, for the Con - quer - or has ri - sen. And as the
win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful. As saints of



faith and belt of truth, we'll stand a - gainst the dev - il's lies, an ar - my
trials on ev - ery side, we know the out - come is se - cure. And Christ will
stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e - merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry
old still line the way, re - tell - ing tri - umphs of His grace, we hear their



bold, whose bat - tle cry is Love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
have the prize for which He died, an in - her - i - tance of na - tions.
march con - tin - ues till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see Him.
calls and hun - ger for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

Gentle Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Erik Dewar

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1. Gen - tle Shep - herd, walk be - side me, for with You I shall not
2. Gen - tle Shep - herd, come re - store me; let me walk in right - eous
3. Gen - tle Shep - herd, now sus - tain me, at the ta - ble You pre -



want. With Your pre - sence cheer and guide me; a -
paths. For Your name lead on be - fore me, and
pare. In the sight of those who hate me, Your



long the path for - sake me not. By the wat - ers gent - ly
guide me in Your sov - reign plans. Through the val - ley, Lord, be
bles - sings flow be - yond com - pare. Sure - ly Love shall e'er pur -



lead me; In the pas - tures let me lie,
near me, then no e - vil shall I fear.
sue me, though I wan - der far a - way.



for in faith - ful - ness You feed me, and by Your grace my needs sup - ply.
In Your mer - cy stoop to hear me, when in the dark I lift my pray'r.
In Your house, O Lord, re - new me, where I shall dwell for all my days.

Announcements

VBS Registration is NOW OPEN

Join us for a fun-filled week at Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 19th-23rd from 9am to 12pm each day as we learn about Jesus' love and what that means for us! Each day at VBS, kids will participate in awesome Bible adventures, play teamwork-building games, sing catchy songs, devour yummy treats, make fun crafts and have lots of fun! VBS is for kids aged 4 through rising 5th graders. (We offer childcare for children ages 0-3 years for parents who volunteer during VBS) Register today by scanning this QR code, or learn more on our VBS website at tcpca.org/vbs.



VOLUNTEER AT VBS!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an exciting week in the life of our church that brings the gospel to life for our children through Bible lessons, worship, silly skits, games and so much more! The more volunteers we have, the more kids we can welcome to VBS. Our team includes adult and student (middle and high school) volunteers. Jump in on the fun alongside the kids, or serve behind the scenes, we'll find the perfect place to use your gifts. Register to volunteer today at tcpca.org/vbs or email Nicole Dorton at ndorton@tcpca.org.

Next Fellowship Dinner on May 3

Save the date! Our next monthly fellowship dinner will take place on Wednesday, May 3.

Volunteers to Prepare Communion

We are looking for volunteers who can help us each week prepare the communion elements for worship! You will be placed on a rotation with other individuals, so you won't have to serve every week. Please email Mark Randle (mrandle@tcpca.org) if you would like to serve our church in this role!

Senior Ministry Luncheon on May 21

You may be surprised to learn the breadth of TCPC's Mercy Ministry! We are excited about having a presentation by James Veldhorst, the chairman of the Mercy Committee for the diaconate, who will give us an overview of all that this ministry encompasses. In addition, Preston Hicks, who leads the weekly ACCESS prayer group, will present plans for expansion of this ministry, which is also critically important to the entire ministry of TCPC. We'll meet for lunch in the Fellowship Hall right after the second service. We heartily welcome all ages, not just seniors, but please help us to be sure we have enough food by sending an RSVP to Eileen Frisinger at bifrisinger@aol.com by May 16.

Ready to make a budget that will finally stick?

Gain control over your finances! Join us for a two part seminar to learn the popular budgeting tool YNAB (You Need A Budget). YNAB is a digital upgrade to the envelope system that encourages you to be intentional with your money. When you have a plan it's easier to prioritize what you value! If you have/earn money this class is for you. Couples are encouraged to join together. Childcare will be provided. Spots are limited so please email zach.whelchel@gmail.com to reserve. May 8 & May 15 from 7:00-9:00pm in the Lower Level Boardroom.

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 859-272-4399

Email: contact@tcpca.org

Learn more about our church online at tcpca.org