

April 6, 2020

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Kenneth E. Kovacs, Ph.D.

Associate Pastor

Rev. Dorothy L. Boulton, M.Div.

Director of Music

Greg Knauf, D.M.A.

Organist

Douglas Heist, D.M.A.

Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

Lisa Roca

Membership Secretary

Peggy Carr

Administrative Assistant

Shirley Winters

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Sexton

Bernard Lawson

Sunday Sextons

Cecilie Nilsen

Paige Percy

Sunday Child Care Providers

Roberta Harris

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Christ appears to Mary Magdalene (Fra Angelico c 1438-50).

Alleluia!

By Ken Kovacs

Holy Week and Easter will be very different for us this year. So much is different. The scripture readings for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter have an unusual resonance and altered meaning. They don't sound the same. Until this year, I've never noticed how much of the story takes place in and among crowds. Consider: what if Jesus appeared in Jerusalem during a COVID-19 outbreak? Gathering in an upper room for a meal would have been illegal—and unsafe. And what about foot washing? The flock scattered away from Jesus would have been for their own good. Even Jesus's words to Mary on the morning of resurrection sound odd, "Do not touch me" (John 20:9). And like the first followers of Jesus, we are in our respective houses behind closed doors locked in fear (John 20:19).

Yes, the church is being forced to adapt to a rapidly changing situation. We're becoming more technologically savvy and Zoom and Facebook Live experts. This week we'll gather for worship on Maundy Thursday—without Communion, but we'll commune in a

continued on page 2 ↪

Alleluia!

Continued from Page 1

sanctuary on Easter morning singing together, "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia!" Easter dinner with family and friends won't be the same.

The church building might be closed, but our hearts are open. During odd time and troubling time, we are (re)discovering the true nature of the church as the community of the Risen Lord. The church is a people, God's people, called to love. This is the new commandment that the Lord has given us: love one another (John 13:34). Then and now, it's just as radical. Roman society was often bewildered and confused by the compassion and kindness of Jesus's followers. "See how much they love one another," they said.

Today, we are remembering what is always true: the community of the Risen Christ is a people rooted and grounded in God's love, with a passion and desire to share this love and embody this love in tangible ways. The church takes on the cruciform shape of the Lord, who never ceases to bring life to fearful hearts and a future to people devoid of hope. Resurrection means that love never dies. This is the good news. "He is risen! Risen, indeed!" Let us sing it and say it and live it! *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!* ✝

Children, Youth, Family Ministry Update

By Dorothy Boulton

During this time of home-based ministry, the Christian Education team and amazing volunteers are finding new ways to reach out and connect. Keep checking your emails for further details and updates.

Church School Worship Material

Each Saturday we're sending home educational and worship materials for children and younger youth. We may start incorporating online activities and gatherings for middle and high youth as well. Stay tuned!

Youth Groups Online Meetings

Jenny Hutton and other caring adults are setting up Zoom check-ins with the various age groups. We're so happy to see your faces! And it's been great to hear how you've all been coping with this strange and unprecedented situation.

Worship Morning Technology

We've been adding parts to the worship service

each week as we get better with our Sunday morning technology. Watch for Children's Messages starting in early April.

Mission and Offerings

Since we can not bring in our One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks at this time, we will hold them until we can worship together in person. If you have not received a sharing calendar, you can still download one from the OGH website at or ask Dorothy Boulton to send you one by snailmail. We hope that you are finding ways to help your families and neighbors during this time. A little kindness goes a long way and shows how We Are the Church, wherever we are.

Please Remember

We are praying for you and look forward to the day when we can be together in person. In the meantime, always feel welcome to connect by email, we'll be more than happy to follow up with a phone call or Zoom chat. Perhaps now, more than ever, during this Lenten/Easter season, we know that God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!



Holy Week Worship Services

All live services are on Catonsville Presbyterian's public Facebook page at www.facebook.com/catonsvillepresb. Facebook membership is not required to access it. Prerecorded services can be accessed on our [YouTube channel](#) and website.

Palm Sunday, April 5, Recorded Worship Online

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” We remember the day Jesus entered Jerusalem and set his face toward the cross.

Maundy Thursday, April 9, Worship Online at 7pm

On this night before his crucifixion, Jesus drew together his closest friends around a table to prepared them for the drama to come. Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.... As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love” (John 13:34; 15:9).

Good Friday, April 10, Worship Online at 7pm

In the evening a prerecorded reflective, contemplative service will be posted online, as we consider the suffering and death of Christ.

Easter Sunday, April 12, Worship Online at 10:30 am

We'll gather in the Spirit at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the power of God's undying love.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Visit our website at www.catonsvillepres.org/support-us to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing this month.

Poetry and the Christian Life

Join us for an online poetry discussion on Tuesday, April 7, from 7 to 8 p.m. for the chosen poem *Monet Refuses the Operation* by Lisel Mueller. Read the full poem on our website, slowly. Ponder it, reflect on it, and let it speak to you. Then join Ann Quinn for an online Zoom discussion.

Monet Refuses the Operation

Monet Refuses the Operation explores the argument voiced by none other than Monsieur Monet himself who, later in life, decided not to have surgery on his eyes to remove cataracts.

He wanted to paint the light and not the object, to go beyond the 'youthful errors' and into the realm of a unified field. This must have been difficult to understand from a medical point of view but Monet insisted, producing some of his best known works known for their hazy content. [View our website to read the full poem](#) and learn more.

THE Messenger

Our Mission

We seek to find and share God's calling for this community of faith through worship, fellowship and service.

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

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[Facebook.com/catonsvillepresb](https://www.facebook.com/catonsvillepresb)

[Twitter.com/catonsvillepres](https://twitter.com/catonsvillepres)

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

office@catonsvillepres.org



Meditation

By Kirsten Nilsen

Feeling edgy? Feeling aimless after over a week of homebound activity? COVID-19 has forced immediate and sudden change in every single person's life, and change is almost always uncomfortable, even when we've prepared for it. Some have responded to social isolation by rushing to create color-coded charts for the household, some by adopting strict regimes of healthy eating and at-home workouts, some by embracing copious wine and Netflix binges. Friends – all of this is fine. All valid responses, as long as you're not hoarding toilet paper.

I wonder if, in the midst of this discomfort and anxiety, we might allow ourselves to release the death grip on the brightly colored schedules and the boxed wine, and instead center our minds on the ancient words of the Psalms: "Be still, and know that I am God." (Ps 46:10) It's a radical call to humans whose lives are so accustomed to constantly-full calendars and frantic 24/7 activity.

Be still, and allow yourself the grace and space to see this tremendous inflection point in our cultural history: life will never be the same, and that is both deeply unsettling and deeply encouraging. Maybe the entire point is that life will never be the same. In Isaiah, God's voice asserts "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

Perhaps if nothing else, this sudden quiet in our global consciousness allows us to see a change is possible, instead of constantly being out of time and out of energy. In the stillness that's followed a quarantine we're hearing reports of clearer waters, cleaner skies, bird song where before there was none. We're hearing stories of neighbors helping each other and of strangers offering what they can. The change God brings may ultimately be – at long last – the communal understanding that we belong to each other, locally and globally. Perhaps this is the new thing that springs forth.