

March 25, 2021

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.

Interim Organist

Jason Kissel, D.M.A.

Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

Lisa Roca

Membership Secretary

Peggy Carr

Administrative Assistant

Shirley Winters

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Sexton

Bernard Lawson

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Love Unknown

By Kenneth Kovacs

Around this time every year there's one hymn that starts playing in my head. There was an allusion to it in the sermon title from March 21. It's the Lenten hymn, "My Song Is Love Unknown." It's often the closing hymn on Palm Sunday (as it will be this year) when we transition from "Hosannas" to the events of Holy Week—to table, betrayal, and cross. The text was first a poem written by the English Puritan minister, Samuel Crossman (1623-1683), in 1664, while England was enduring yet another outbreak of plague. The hymn tune, however, was written in 1918 by the English composer John Ireland (1879-1962). The story goes that one day Ireland was

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Love Unknown

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at lunch with Geoffrey Shaw (1879-1943), a composer and Anglican church musician. Shaw handed Ireland a slip of paper and said, "I want a tune for this lovely poem by Samuel Crossman." Ireland took the paper with the poem on it, picked up a menu, and then proceeded to compose the tune on the back of it. In a few minutes Ireland handed the menu back to Shaw, with a casual remark, "Here is your tune."

Both the tune and text have a way of working their way into my soul. The part that grips and grabs me, that touches something deep in me occurs when tune and text come together in a striking way toward the center of the tune. About halfway through Ireland intentionally deviates from the dominant or tonic key of D-Major. It's a technique called chromaticism, which involves modulating out of the dominant key; it's a signature technique that Ireland loved to use in his compositions. In other words, he breaks out of tonality. He intentionally inserts dissonance. And this creates a kind of twinge in the music that then hooks us. The companion text for this part of the tune, the dissonance in each verse, is:

*...O who am I That for my sake;...
...But O my Friend, My Friend indeed;...*

*...Then 'Crucify!' Is all their breath;...
...Yet steadfast He To suffering goes;...
...This is my Friend, In whose sweet praise....*

It's here in these lines at the heart of the hymn, at the heart of the text, that repeat again and again within me and draw me into the mystery of Palm Sunday and Holy Week. *Yet steadfast he to suffering goes.*

This is my image of Palm Sunday as Jesus faces Jerusalem, knowing full well what he was doing. Steadfast. Sure. With unwavering commitment, he sets his face toward a city he knows will reject him, as it did to so many prophets before him. With firm resolution, rooted and grounded in unfathomable love, he *chose* to go this way, for my sake, my Friend, indeed, who deserves my praise.

What about you? Which Lenten, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, or Easter hymn speaks to your soul and shapes how you move through these days, which hymns accompany your walk with Christ?

Image: Christ's Entry into Jerusalem by Jean-Hippolyte Flandrin (1842-1848)

Session Meeting Highlights

The coronavirus pandemic has not stopped the work of the church! Your Session continues to meet on a monthly basis, and is using Zoom to meet online in view of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Following are highlights from the Session meeting on March 3, 2021.

- The pastors and staff are planning the worship services and activities for Holy Week, including a Zoom communion service on Maundy Thursday, an outdoor vespers service on Good Friday and a festival service of worship on Easter Sunday. Outdoor activities for children are also planned for the weekend preceding Easter.
- The Finance Committee reported that pledged giving has been strong for the first months of the year, thanks to some members paying their full pledges in advance.

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- The Mission Committee will be working with the Deacons to assure that they are coordinating their support for local causes.
- The Peace and Justice Committee reported that the Dismantling Racism Sub-Committee has prepared a pilot program to work with local school librarians to distribute books with anti-discrimination themes to children in local schools. The Committee is also planning a workshop at CPC for the community on implicit bias in June or July, conditions permitting.
- Session voted to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to hire Dr. Christopher Keenan as our Organist/Assistant Choir Director. He is expected to start in June of this year. Watch for details to follow in the early April Messenger.
- After discussion, Session voted to further extend the policy on church use and online worship through June, 2021, to be revisited at the May Session meeting. It was agreed that the pastors will work with the Pandemic Task Force to stay current on pandemic conditions and regulations, and will consider developing alternate activities outdoors on the church grounds with appropriate safeguards.
- The Columbarium Committee presented a proposed business plan for Session consideration and approval. After discussion, Session approved the plan, and authorized construction of the Columbarium. Construction in late summer 2021 is planned.

Session recognizes the need to continually communicate with our membership, and we welcome your suggestions for communication exchange. Session member contact information is listed in the Church Directory, so it is easier than ever to communicate directly with your church leaders. Take a few minutes to send a message to a Session member, the pastors or the church office, and let us know what you think. We want to hear from you! David Hutton, Clerk of Session

Holy Week Worship Services

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 28 at 10:30 a.m. (via Facebook and YouTube)

Join us for music, a message, and a time for prayer. "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 SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

April 1 at 7 p.m. (via Zoom)

On this night before his crucifixion, Jesus drew together his closest friends around a table to prepare 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 2 Outdoor Vespers Service at 6 p.m. (on the Church Grounds)

A reflective, contemplative service as we consider the suffering and death of Christ. "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (John 13:1).

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/ EASTER SUNDAY

April 4 at 10:30 a.m. (via Facebook and YouTube)

We gather in the Spirit to celebrate the power of God's undying love. "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb" (John 20:1).

Easter in the Woodlands

We'll share the story of Holy Week with child-friendly activities and feature an Easter walk through the woodlands on Saturday, March 27 1–2:30 p.m. (Rain date Sunday, March 28).

Glenys Nellist's beautiful book, *'Twas the Morning of Easter*, will be shared at the stations along the trail. Suitable for families and households of all ages. For the safety of all, please be prepared to be masked and distanced. Sponsored by the Christian Education team.

Sanctuary Easter Flowers

Each year we put seasonal flowers in the chancel to mark Easter Sunday and though things are different and we will not be together in the sanctuary, it will look like you remember it with lilies and tulips. To memorialize or honor someone, contribute electronically at <https://onrealm.org/CatonsvillePres/-/give/EasterFlowers>.

Be sure to tell us how you would like the name(s) listed for yourself as donor and your honoree. If you prefer, you can mail a donation to the church with the same information included. Donations in any amount are welcome. Questions can be directed to Susan Hutton at 410-719-6711 or dhutt@erols.com.

Our Financial Resources

We rely on everyone to support what God is doing through this congregation. The vitality of this ministry is secured by God's grace and funded by the faithfulness and commitment of God's people. We are counting on the ongoing generosity of our members and friends.

Doing God's Work

■ Income as of March 20, 2021	\$ 155,592
■ Expense as of March 20, 2021	\$-143,453
■ Total:	\$ 12,139

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

1400 Frederick Road

Catonsville, MD 21228

(P) 410-747-6180, (F) 410-747-7263

www.catonsvillepres.org

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

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

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

office@catonsvillepres.org



We Choose
Welcome

