

Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

Relentlessly, God seeks us out.

With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out.

This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

***Response of Praise: Hymn 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

VASILE

***Passing of the Peace**

Life in Community

The peace and joy of the Lord

be with you and yours today.

Thank you for joining us for worship.

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination (Together)

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit

that we might hear what you would have us hear

and be who you would us be,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Scripture John 9:1-12

Hymn *Spirit of God, Come Dwell Within Me* (verse 1, printed on following page)

Scripture John 9:13-17 (Together):

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

John 9:18-34

Hymn *Spirit of God, Come Dwell Within Me* (verse 2)

Scripture John 9:35-41

Hymn *Spirit of God, Come Dwell Within Me* (verse 3)



Spi - rit of God, come dwell with-in me. O - pen my heart, O come set me free,
 Lord, how I thirst, O Lord, I am weak. Lord, come to me, you a-lone do I seek.
 Lord, I am blind, O Lord, I can't see. Stretch out your hand, O Lord com-fort me.



fill me with love for Je - sus, my Lord, O fill me with liv - ing wa - ter. _____
 Lord, you are life, and love and hope, O fill me with liv - ing wa - ter. _____
 Lead me your way in light and truth, O fill me with liv - ing wa - ter. _____



Je - sus is liv - ing, Je - sus is here. Je - sus, my Lord, come clo-ser to me.



Je - sus our Sa - viour dy - ing for me, and ris - ing to save his peo - ple.

Sermon "Stay Focused"

Call to Offering

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

Offertory *None Other Lamb*

Craig Courtney



*None other Lamb, none other name, none other hope in heav'n or earth or sea,
 None other hiding place from guilt and shame, none beside Thee!*

*My faith burns low, my hope burns low; only my heart's desire cries out in me
 By the deep thunder of its want and woe, cries out to Thee.*

*Lord, Thou art Life, though I be dead; Love's fire thou art, however cold I be:
 Nor heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head, nor home, but Thee.*

***Doxology 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication (Together)**

*O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts.
 Use them, as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ,
 the head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.*

*Please stand in body or in spirit

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (Together)

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.

***Hymn 182** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

KINGSFOLD

***Benediction** (Responsive)

Let us go from this place

trusting that God is with us and for us in every place.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus,

the love of God,

and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you

and abide with you this day and forevermore.

Amen.

Postlude OLIVET

Arr. David Blackwell

Participants

- Dorothy Boulton, *Associate Pastor*
- Michael Cuppett, *Communications and Operations Manager*
- Wendy Johnston, *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*
- Greg Knauf, *Director of Music*
- Kenneth E. Kovacs, *Pastor*
- Vickie Lord, *social media support*
- Dottie Marshall, *Ruling Elder, sanctuary set up*
- Rhys Peercy, *video production*
- Cynthia Schwanz, *Ruling Elder, liturgist*

Sources

- John Wurster, *The Presbyterian Outlook*, 2023.
- *Book of Common Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018).
- *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013).
- Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-734388; CCLI Copyright License B 20481088 + Streaming License B 481071
- “Kyrie eleison” from the Galloway Mass by James MacMillan (b.1959), from *Common Ground: A Song Book for All the Churches* (Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press, 1993).
- “Spirit of God, come dwell within me” (Mallaig Sprinkling Song). Words by Helen Kennedy set to the Scottish folk tune Leaving of Lismore, from *Common Ground: A Song Book for All the Churches* (Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press, 1993).

LIFE IN COMMUNITY

WELCOMING ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

Catonsville Presbyterian Church recognizes that people of all ages have varying abilities and needs. If you meet or see someone with differing needs, whether an adult or a child, please recognize that underlying conditions may occasionally cause behavior that might be misinterpreted as inappropriate. Please reach out. Ask if there is a way that you might assist, and otherwise be understanding and supportive.

If you or a family member has special needs, please speak to one of the pastors or the Deacon of the Day. We want to fully appreciate each individual's gifts and talents and help you to feel a part of this faith community.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children are welcome in worship as part of the Whole Family of God. We are delighted they are here. We are currently providing childcare on the second Sunday morning of the month, but fellowship hall is available for families to use if they wish. The service can be heard in the room, plus there's plenty of space for active children. Children's Bibles and books are available in the back of the sanctuary, along with clipboards, crayons, markers, and paper. Information about our education ministries is in our newsletter and can be found on our website, catonsvillepres.org.

GROWING IN GRACE: ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Join us in person at 9:00 a.m. in the library for adult education.

Pathos, Empathy, and the Cross: Ken Kovacs (Sunday, March 19 and Sunday, April 2)

Isaiah spoke of a "suffering servant" (Is. 53) by whose "bruises we are healed." Jesus, talking about himself, said, "the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mk. 8:31). The suffering that Jesus endured, the early Church believed, brought about something new. The first Christians believed that they could share in Christ's suffering and, therefore, found meaning in their individual and collective experiences of suffering. What do these beliefs mean for us today? Do they still resonate with us and carry the same meaning? How do we relate to Christ's suffering on the cross? Did he have to suffer? And what exactly did he suffer?

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called for a congregational meeting on March 26 immediately following worship. This meeting is called to receive reports from the Personnel and Nominating Committees and elect a new class of officers.

Exploring Membership

Have you been attending services at CPC and grown interested in learning more about the ministries here? Are you seeking opportunities to study scripture and enrich your faith? Are you searching for belonging and friendship? Perhaps you have questions about the CPC community, and you don't know who to ask. We invite you to ask your questions at our Exploring Membership group. We will be hosting a meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the France Room (located by the Frederick Door entrance) on March 25. Feel free to email Debbie Davis at ddavis1069@yahoo.com if you have any questions. Childcare can be arranged if needed. We look forward to seeing you!

Calling all Children and Youth!

We will be singing a song in Tanzanian, *Hallelujah, Mungu wa Israeli*, composed for children and youth choir, soloist, caller, SATB, piano, and percussion on Palm Sunday, April 2. It is going to be a lot of fun to sing and a lot of fun putting the pieces together! Rehearsals are after worship on March 19 and 26 from 11:40 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the choir room. Please note that we will also rehearse with the chancel choir on Sunday, April 2 at 9:45 a.m. For more information, please contact Wendy Johnston, wjohnston@catonsvillepres.org.

Easter Story Walk

On March 26, the Christian Education team is hosting an Easter Story Walk in the church woodlands. Immediately following worship, youth volunteers will read the story of Jesus at different stations through the church woodlands followed by a fun activity in the pavilion. The entire congregation is invited!

Supporting Homebound and Distant Members

Each Sunday, about twenty to thirty members, neighbors, and friends participate in worship online. Many of these individuals attend online due to physical limitations or health challenges, making the worship stream especially important for their sense of connection at CPC. Volunteers are needed in the A/V booth to support these members and friends each week. No experience is necessary! If you feel led to serve in this way, contact Keith Glennan (kglennan@catonsvillepres.org) or the church office (office@catonsvillepres.org) to explore how you might participate.

Iftar Dinner

Please plan to join us for dinner in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m. A breaking of the fast meal (Iftar), celebrating Ramadan, will be shared with our Muslim friends from MARTI (Maryland Turkish American Inhabitants). Dinner will be served at sundown, preceded and followed by a shared program lead by MARTI and CPC. Reservations are required, and our congregation will each have 50 seats available. Please RSVP on Eventbrite at [tinyurl.com/iftar-23](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/iftar-23).

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Bible study has resumed! We gather on Thursday mornings in the Library and over Zoom at 10:30 a.m., and will enjoy a time of discussion and in-depth, careful study of Pauls' letter to the Philippians. We aim to finish up by noon. Consider joining us online or in-person!

Presbyterian Women: New Circle Meeting this Week

We have a new circle! We'll be gathering on Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. The new circle will meet on the third Wednesday of the month. If you're interested in attending this week or in the future, please contact Laurie White at 410-747-0317 or thewhites@brickhouse112.com. Because of such a positive response, we are also looking at starting a daytime circle later this spring.

Calendar

Monday, March 20	7:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
Tuesday, March 21	10:30 a.m.	Needlework Group (Zoom)
	7:00 p.m.	Presbyterian Women: Passages Circle
Wednesday, March 22	12:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting (Church House)
	7:00 p.m.	Presbyterian Women: New Circle
Thursday, March 23	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study (Library and Zoom)
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice (Choir room)
Saturday, March 25	9:30 a.m.	Exploring Membership (France Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Iftar Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Giving Update

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.

Keith Glennan, Finance Committee

Actual Income as of 03/18/23	\$ 169,680
Actual Expense as of 03/18/23	\$ -142,739
Total	\$ 26,941
Per capita contributions	\$ 1,430



Welcome!

Welcome to Our Visitors and Guests

We welcome you with open minds and hearts. Come in your faith and in your doubt. If you are joining us for the first time, we invite you to share your information by scanning the QR code. We would love to connect.



Catonsville Presbyterian Church

1400 Frederick Road · Catonsville, MD 21228-5017

Church office: Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Church: (410) 747-6180 · catonsvillepres.org

Family Child Care Center: (410) 747-4581 · cpcfccc.org

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Kovacs, *Pastor*
kkovacs@catonsvillepres.org

Rev. Dorothy Boulton, *Associate Pastor*
dboulton@catonsvillepres.org