



Care of Creation Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 23, 2023

10:30 A.M.

PEACE BE WITH YOU

As pastors of Catonsville Presbyterian Church, we know that this is a community of love, care, and true welcome. We pray that you will experience our hospitality and our delight in your presence.

Not only do we welcome you and your family, but we seek to welcome the full range of experiences, identities, and feelings that you carry. Our life together is often marked by a desire to thoughtfully engage God's world and our own humanity. We're compelled by the reality that the Christian life is often full of doubt, fear, loneliness, shortfalls, and uncertainty, in the same way that it can be full of beauty, belonging, love, and hope.

Whoever you are today, whoever you have been, and whoever you have yet to be: you are welcome in this space. We hope to meet you this morning, and if not, we hope to say hello in the coming days. If you are interested in learning more about our ministry at Catonsville Presbyterian Church, consider opening your phone's camera and following the QR



code on this page. We'll send a short email with some ways to get connected this week and in the weeks to come.

Once again, welcome. You are a beloved child of God.

Kenneth E. Kovacs

Pastor • kkovacs@catonsvillepres.org

Dorothy L. Boulton

Associate Pastor • dboulton@catonsvillepres.org

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

This morning's flowers are given to the glory of God, and with thanks for the ministry of our Creation Care Team.

ABOUT OUR CONGREGATION

We actively engage our intellects and our hearts in what we believe to be true: that God's peace, justice, and radical love are good news for every corner of our lives. We seek to be a place of freedom and liberation, where people of all ages and backgrounds deepen their connection to God and others while making a tangible difference in our Catonsville community and throughout the world.

Rooted in this faith, our congregation proudly affirms the gifts, callings, and God-given identities of LGBTQIA+ members, friends, and guests. God invites all of us to explore and discover the person God has created and known before all time.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Currently, educational ministries are held on the second week of each month. These Second Sundays include childcare beginning at 10:00 a.m., multi-age church school for those in kindergarten through fifth grade, and middle-school and high-school programming during worship.

Today, you can find children's bulletins, books, and activities in the back of the sanctuary. The fellowship hall is available for families to use if desired. The service can be heard in the room and there's plenty of space for active children.

ACCESSIBILITY IN WORSHIP AND CHURCH LIFE

Disabilities have been part of God's people throughout time and space, and nearly all of us—whether young or old—will be disabled at some point throughout our lives. If there are particular accommodations that might improve accessibility and access to worship, programming, or participation in congregational life, please reach out to a pastor, deacon, or staff member. The sanctuary is also fitted with a hearing loop and headsets are available in the rear.



“Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God’s grace and glory in creation.

Our education will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing creation.

Our facilities will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.

Our outreach will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth as well as oppressed and neglected people.”

The Earth Care Pledge

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Service on the Lord's Day

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives," (DUKE STREET)
Setting by Wilbur Held

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 19:1 and 24:1

(The congregation responds aloud with the bold text)

The heavens declare the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

the world and those who live in it.

Come, let us worship God!

† HYMN # 15

"All Creatures of Our God and King"
Choir only: verses 3 and 5

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Giver of life, in the midst of a plundered earth we groan with creation:

Have mercy on us.

Giver of life, in the midst of poisoned water we groan with creation:

Have mercy on us.

Giver of life, in the midst of polluted air we groan with creation:

Have mercy on us.

Giver of life, in the midst of mountains of waste we groan with creation:

Have mercy on us.

Giver of life, forgive us and make us agents of healing for the good for your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

(Silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the water of baptism, God pours out mercy and blessing. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace as you share that blessing with others and care for this good earth, that all creation may declare God's glory, and offer songs of thanksgiving. **Amen.**

† **RESPONSE OF PRAISE: HYMN # 37**

“Let All Things Now Living”

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

LIFE IN COMMUNITY



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.

Upcoming events and recent announcements are available in the back of the bulletin and on our website at catonsvillepres.org.

AWARD OF ENVISION GRANTS

Sheri Comisac

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious God, your Word is a living word.
By your Spirit awaken us, that we may see
and hear your presence in the world and in the scripture that we read today.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE, STORY, AND SONG

The Scripture readings can be found beginning on page 554 in the Old Testament of the pew Bibles.

Psalm 104:1-9	Ron Gunderson	Hymn #680
Psalm 104:10-23	Jenny Hutton	Hymn #20, verses 1 and 2
Psalm 104:24-30	Betsy Hall	Hymn #20, verses 3 and 4
Psalm 104:31-35	Laurie White	

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CALL TO OFFERING

“Freely we have received,” Jesus said, so let us freely give.
Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

We give out of abundance, whatever that may be. If you would like to contribute financially to Catonsville Presbyterian Church, scan the QR code or use the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary.



OFFERTORY

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Arr. John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

(Offertory continued)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

† **RESPONSE: HYMN # 36**

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, our possessions, and this planet.**

**Use us, and what we have gathered
in caring for your world with love;
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND
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.**

† HYMN # 22

“God of the Sparrow”

BENEDICTION

Go and join the song of creation, singing out in praise to God.
Go and join the cries of creation, yearning for healing.
Go and work for the healing and wholeness of all the earth.

May it be so!

POSTLUDE

Plein jeu, from the Second Suite
by Louis-Nicolas Clérembault

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Dorothy Boulton,
Associate Pastor

Greg Knauf,
Director of Music

Dottie Marshall,
Sanctuary set up

Keith & Kathy Glennan,
Video production

Kenneth E. Kovacs,
Pastor

Ron & Cindy Gunderson,
Jenny Hutton
Ushers

Wendy Johnston,
Organist and Assistant
Director of Music

Vickie Lord,
Social media support

SOURCES

Book of Common Worship (Louisville:
Westminster John Knox Press, 2018).

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal
(Louisville: Westminster John Knox
Press, 2013).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Hour

Head to the pavilion after worship for fellowship hour. We will create “seed bombs” and spread them in the woodlands.

Upcoming Church Grounds Workdays

We are so grateful for those who served yesterday at the church grounds workday. Another workday is planned for this coming Saturday, April 29, beginning at 9:00 a.m. People of all skill levels and no skill levels are invited to lend a hand! Please contact Ron Gunderson (cinron.md@gmail.com) or the church office to RSVP or learn more.

Subscribing to Weekly Emails

Members, friends, and our Catonsville neighbors can subscribe to weekly emails by visiting catonsvillepres.org/subscribe. Each week, prayer requests, worship information, announcements, and a copy of the bulletin are shared.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Bible study will take a break for the remainder of April and resume on Thursday, May 4. When we resume, we will explore four texts in the book of Acts. Be sure to mark your calendar for May 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Library on online via Zoom!

Presbyterian Women: Bridges Circle

The Bridges circle of Presbyterian Women will take a brief hiatus in May and June before resuming on Thursday, July 13 at Brightview in Catonsville. Bridges will begin a new study of *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. Please contact Tracy Lantz (tklantz@verizon.net) with any questions.

GIVING UPDATE

We publish these numbers every week out of our gratitude for your financial giving. Thank you for your generosity towards our ministry and life together!

Actual income	\$ 250,604
Actual expense	\$ - 214,016
Total	\$ 36,588
<i>Per capita</i>	<i>\$ 1,430</i>

ADULT EDUCATION

Solved By Walking

May 7 and 21, 9:00 a.m. in the Library • Kenneth Kovacs

Solvitur ambulando. “It is solved by walking.” A Latin saying attributed to St. Augustine (354-430). What is solved by walking? As I learned walking the Camino, perhaps everything—well, a lot of things. As we head into the summer months and spend more time outdoors, we’ll explore what could be called a theology of *walking*. Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) said, “I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it.” Naturalist John Muir (1838-1914), who once walked from Louisville, KY, to Key West, FL, confessed, “I only went out for a walk and ... going out, I found, was really going in.” Contemporary writer Rebecca Solnit says walking “is how the body measures itself against the earth.” And Jesus certainly spent a lot of time walking and came to show us the way. In fact, the first Christians were known as followers of The Way. There’s a lot to discover here. Wear comfy shoes and bring your walking stick.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

The most accurate and up-to-date calendar is available on our website at catonsvillepres.org/events. Be sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook for event updates, schedule changes, and corrections throughout the week.

Date	Event	Location/time	Contact
Mon.	Contemplative Listening	Zoom, 7 p.m.	Brenda Logue naylogue@aol.com
Tues.	Needlework group	Zoom, 10:30 a.m.	Cindy Gunderson cinron.md@gmail.com
Thurs.	Choir Rehearsal	Choir room, 7 p.m.	Greg Knauf dboulton@catonsvillepres.org
Sat.	Church Grounds Workday	Pavilion, 9:00 a.m.	Ron Gunderson cinron.md@gmail.com



Catonsville Presbyterian Church

An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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@CatonsvillePres on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

Please note that today's service is streamed. The two cameras near the piano and organ console may occasionally capture images of the congregation as a whole.