



Reign of Christ Sunday

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NOVEMBER 26, 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.

Ken Kovacs

Pastor • kkovacs@catonsvillepres.org

Dorothy Boulton

Associate Pastor • dboulton@catonsvillepres.org

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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 AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Educational ministries are currently held on the second week of each month. These Second Sundays include childcare and youth programming beginning at 10:00 a.m. and multi-age church school for those in kindergarten through fifth grade. Visit catonsvillepres.org/ministries/families to learn more.

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.

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 misrepresented as inappropriate. Please reach out. Ask if there is a way 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.

**“Your inability to
understand stems from
a failure of imagination
on your part!”**

J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973) to C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Service for the Lord's Day

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God and *We Gather Together*,
Two settings by Wilbur Held

We Gather Together was written in 1597 to celebrate a Dutch victory over Spanish forces. This hymn resonated with the Dutch because Protestants were forbidden from gathering to worship under the Spanish King Philip II.

The text for *Now Thank We All Our God* was written about forty years later, in 1636 by Lutheran pastor Martin Rinkart. Bach must have loved this melody because he used it many times.

Wilbur Held (1914-2015) was a prolific composer, and his compositions are well-loved and often played by church organists.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

(The congregation responds aloud with the bold text)

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

For the Lord is a great God;

a great ruler over all the earth.

Come, let us worship God!

† HYMN # 268

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

† Please rise in body or in spirit

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm. You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead. You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne.

Silent prayer of confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news!

However long we wander, however far we stray,
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Siblings in Christ, be assured: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

May we find in him freedom and peace; joy and hope.

† RESPONSE OF PRAISE: HYMN # 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

† 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.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious One, open the eyes of our hearts by the power of your Spirit, that we may know the hope to which we have been called in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 95:1-7a
Page 550 of the Old Testament

HYMN # 266

"Joy to the World"

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:15-20
Page 200 of the New Testament

SERMON

"All Things"
Ken Kovacs

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

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

The Call, Alexander Brent Smith
Text by George Herbert

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife,
Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a light as shows a feast,
Such a feast as mends in length,
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a joy as none can move,
Such a love as none can part,
Such a heart as joys in love.

† DOXOLOGY # 607

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**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

Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept our offering in union with Christ’s offering for us. Confirm in us the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, that we may testify to the sovereignty of his love. Through Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. 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 # 270

“O Lord, You Are My God and King”

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
serving faithfully until Christ comes to welcome his people home.

May the grace of Christ surround you,
the love of God astound you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you,
this day and forevermore.

May it be so.

† POSTLUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Setting by Michael Burkhardt

The well-known hymn tune ST. DENIO was originally a Welsh ballad and finds an effective setting here by composer Michael Burkhardt. The text was originally written by Walter Chalmers Smith, a minister of the Free Church of Scotland,

† Please rise in body or in spirit

and published in 1839. Later, the text was altered from the original, but perhaps the original is worth a closer look. See if you agree. Here is the unaltered final stanza:

*All laud we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee,
And so let Thy glory, Almighty, impart,
Through Christ in His story, Thy Christ to the heart.*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Dorothy Boulton
Associate Pastor

Ken Kovacs
Pastor

Vickie Lord
Social media support

Keith and Kathy Glennan
A/V Production

Greg Knauf
Director of Music

Stephanie Stevens
Liturgist

Wendy Johnston
Organist and Assistant
Director of Music

SOURCES

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

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Image: *Christ in Judgment*. Part of the late 13th century mosaic ceiling of the dome of the Baptistry of San Giovanni, Florence, Italy. The dome is entirely covered with mosaic showing the Angelic Hierarchies, Scenes from Genesis, Scenes from the life of Joseph the Patriarch, Scenes from the life of Christ, Scenes from the life of St. John the Baptist, and the Last Judgement.

LEARNING & GROWING

Find resources and articles at catonsvillepres.org/belonging

Advent: Facing the Darkness Together

December 3 and 10 | Led by Ken Kovacs | 9:00 a.m. in the Library

“Advent,” says Fleming Rutledge, “begins in the dark.” And, therefore, it is not for the faint of heart. At the midnight of the Christian year, the season of advent is rife with dark, gritty realities, suffering, sin, alienation, oppression, and the apparent hiddenness and absence of God. Three articles will guide us through this season, we who might fear the dark. Visit catonsvillepres.org/belonging to read them.

Advent reminds us that God’s light shines in the darkness (John 1:5), but we might first have to face the darkness to see it. Join us for a rich, unconventional take on the meaning of this season.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Next Meeting on November 30 | 10:30 a.m. in the Library

We’ll resume our exploration of the Letter to the Ephesians this week on November 30 at 10:30 a.m. in the Library and online.

Youth Group

Sunday, November 26 | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Youth Group meets on Sunday, November 26, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 pm. Middle and high school youth will gather in Fellowship Hall for Generosity Night — an evening filled with seasonal activities and conversation. Snacks will be served.

THIS ADVENT AT CPC

Visit catonsvillepres.org/advent to view all upcoming events.

Advent Devotionals

Copies of *Bless the Advent We Actually Have: A Daily Devotional for the Christmas Season* by Kate Bowler and The Everything Happens Project are available. A limited number of printed copies can be found today in the rear of the sanctuary. You can also download a copy at catonsvillepres.org/advent or contact the church office (office@catonsvillepres.org) to have one printed.

Troop 306 Christmas Tree Sales

Scout Troop 306 will again be selling Christmas trees on the front lot facing Frederick Road, beginning on Saturday, November 25 at noon. This project is the Troop's major fundraiser for the year and supports the entire operating and program budget, including merit badge and rank advancement materials, equipment, and leadership training. As an added bonus, Scout Pack 306 is excited to announce their "Trees & Treats" fundraiser during the weekend hours of the Troop Tree Sale. There will be many types of homemade holiday baked goods and hot chocolate for sale.

The sale will be held from November 26 to December 23 (or sooner if all trees have been sold) during the following hours:

- Mondays through Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.
- Fridays, 6-9 p.m.
- Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (including Trees and Treats)
- Sundays, noon to 8 p.m. (including Trees and Treats)

Advent Gathering

After worship on December 3, there are activities for all ages. There will be crafts, refreshments, and gift assembly for "Christmas at Sea" through the Baltimore International Seafarer's Center (BISC).

Holiday Trivia Night

On Friday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m., we will be hosting a trivia night with dessert! Get ready to participate in Christmas trivia, with categories such as Christmas Music,

and Holiday Traditions. Please contact Stephanie Stevens (shfemrite@gmail.com) with any questions.

Cocoa and Carols

On December 10 at 6:00 p.m., we will gather for Cocoa and Carols outside the ramp entrance. A brass quintet will accompany our time together while we celebrate Advent and drink plenty of hot chocolate. Please be sure to bundle up and wear comfortable shoes, as this event will be entirely outdoors.

Festive Service of Music

Worship on December 17 will be led by the choir and consist primarily of music and Scripture.

Cookie Walk

Join in the fun as we bring back the Cookie Walk on December 17, 2023 after worship in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to participate, you will need to bake 6 to 7 dozen fancy cookies or candy. You should be careful to label any allergens. Sign up at tinyurl.com/cpc-cookies. Proceeds will go to the Santi School in Nepal. Thank you for helping us bring back this wonderful tradition! Contact Megan Percy (mpercy@umd.edu) or Alison Enokian (aenokian@gmail.com) with questions.

Blue Christmas

The winter solstice is December 21, 2023, and is the longest night of the year. We will gather a few days prior, on Monday, December 18 at 7 p.m. for a service that honors the grief, loss, and sorrow that is often held around Christmastime. This quiet, contemplative service will be held in the sanctuary.

Family Christmas Eve Service

Our family Christmas Eve service will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This service is structured to provide a comfortable, low-pressure space to worship on Christmas Eve. All ages are welcome!

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

This gentle, intimate service of worship gathers us together for a night of Scripture and song. This service will include congregational singing as well as choral music. Join in worship at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 Pledges

You can submit 2024 pledges by placing them in the offertory plates on Sunday mornings, completing the online pledge card at catonsvillepres.org/stewardship, or by mailing them to the church office. We are grateful for your generosity!

Christmas at Sea

Today, Sunday, November 26 is the final day to sponsor Christmas at Sea gift bags for seafarers coming into the Port of Baltimore during the holiday season. Donations of \$15 per bag can be made at the Seafarers' table via check, cash, or online giving. The Mission Committee appreciates the congregation's continued support of these bags of "warm welcome and cheer" for international workers who leave their homes and family to keep the world economy functioning.

Gifts for the McKim Center

All are invited to contribute gifts for the McKim Community Center Christmas party. Please place new, unwrapped gifts under the tree in the sanctuary from November 26 to December 10 or drop them by the church office. Craft kits, sports equipment, and board games are some suggested items. Thank you for helping make a child's holiday bright.

New Members' Gathering

On Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the France Room, all who are interested in exploring membership are invited to gather for a Q&A session. Ken Kovacs, Dorothy Boulton, and Debbie Davis are eager to spend time in conversation and explore the membership process with you.

Clothing Drive for Westside Men's Shelter

Cupcakes, games, and birthday gifts! Please come celebrate the December birthdays of clients at the Westside Mens' Shelter with the deacons on December 5. Further details to come. The clothing drive will continue until January 31, 2024.

GIVING UPDATE

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

Per capita is set by the Presbytery of Baltimore at \$40 per member for 2024. Any contribution toward per capita is greatly appreciated.

Actual income	\$ 693,761
Actual expense	\$ - 726,281
Total	\$ - 32,520

CPC per capita total	\$ - 16,280
Contributions received	\$ 2,210
Per capita balance	\$ - 14,070

PLEDGE UPDATE

Thank you for your amazing response to this year’s stewardship campaign. We are so grateful for your generosity. If you expect to renew or make a pledge for 2024, please consider doing so by December 17.

Pledges received	27	<i>29% of the total pledges in 2023</i>
Total amount pledged	\$ 187,878	<i>51% of the amount pledged in 2023</i>

EVENTS THIS WEEK

The most accurate and up-to-date calendar is available on our website at catonsvillepres.org/events.

Day	Event	Location/time	Contact
Today	Worship	Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.	Church Office office@catonsvillepres.org
	Youth Group	Fellowship Hall, 6:00-7:30 p.m.	Jenny Hutton jenhutton2010@gmail.com
Mon.	Bridges Circle	Brightview, 4 p.m.	Tracy Lantz tklantz@verizon.net
	Contemplative Prayer	Zoom, 7 p.m.	Brenda Logue naylogue@aol.com
Tues.	Needlework Group	Zoom, 10:30 a.m.	Cindy Gunderson cinron.md@gmail.com
Wed.	Deacons' Meeting	Library and Zoom 7 p.m.	Tom Enokian taenokian@gmail.com
	New Members' Gathering	France Room, 7 p.m.	Debbie Davis ddavis1069@yahoo.com
Thurs.	Bible Study	Library and Zoom 10:30 a.m.	Ken Kovacs kkovacs@catonsvillepres.org
	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary, 7 p.m.	Greg Knauf gknauf@catonsvillepres.org
Next Sun.	Adult Education	Library, 9 a.m.	Ken Kovacs kkovacs@catonsvillepres.org
	Worship	Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.	Church Office office@catonsvillepres.org
	Advent Gathering	Fellowship Hall, after worship	Dorothy Boulton dboulton@catonsvillepres.org

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

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@CatonsvillePres on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube
Please note that today's service is streamed.



**COVENANT NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIANS**

Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

Joy to the World

266

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and

earth re - ceive her king; let ev - ery heart pre -
 all their songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks,
 thorns in - fest the ground; he comes to make his
 makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries of his

pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 bless - ings flow far as the curse is found.
 righ - teous - ness and won - ders of his love.

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

O Lord, You Are My God and King 270

(Psalm 145)



1 O Lord, you are my God and King, and I will
 2 How rich in grace are you, O Lord, full of com -
 3 Your works will give you thanks, O Lord; your saints your



ev - er bless your name; I will ex - tol you ev - ery day, and
 pas - sion, mer - ci - ful, your an - ger al - ways slow to rise; your
 might - y acts will show, till all the peo - ples of the earth your



ev - er - more your praise pro - claim. You, Lord, are great - ly
 stead - fast love you show to all, for you are good in
 king - dom, pow - er, glo - ry know. E - ter - nal is your



to be praised; your great - ness is be - yond our thought; all
 all your ways; your crea - tures know your con - stant care. To
 king - dom, Lord, for - ev - er strong, for - ev - er sure; while



gen - er - a - tions shall tell forth the might - y won - ders you have wrought.
 all your works your love ex - tends; all souls your ten - der mer - cies share.
 gen - er - a - tions rise and die, your high do - min - ion will en - dure.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this paraphrase of Psalm 145 is abbreviated (the original psalm has a verse for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet), it maintains the tone of praise that characterizes the final six psalms. In fact, the whole book takes its Hebrew name, *Tehillim* (praises), from them.