



# Second Sunday of Advent

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 10, 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](mailto:kkovacs@catonsvillepres.org)

**Dorothy Boulton**

Associate Pastor • [dboulton@catonsvillepres.org](mailto: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 MINISTRY

Today is a Second Sunday, when ministry for children and youth is especially active. We know that it might not be comfortable or appropriate for kids to leave their parent during worship, and they are always welcome to remain in the service. Children's bulletins, books, and activities are available in the back of the sanctuary.

### Second Sunday Ministries

- Childcare for infants to age five is available from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the lower level room beneath the France Room.
- Church school for children in kindergarten through fifth grade will meet at the conclusion of the children's message, when leaders will escort them to the lower level room beneath the Fellowship Hall.
- Cocoa and Conversation for middle and high school youth will meet beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the youth room above the France Room.

### Our Commitment to Safety

All adults working with children and youth have completed training to identify and prevent misconduct, and two adults are present at all times with youth and children. If you have any questions about our steps to craft a loving, supportive, and safe environment for children and youth, contact Dorothy Boulton ([dboulton@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:dboulton@catonsvillepres.org)).

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Service for the Lord's Day

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,*  
setting by Michael D. Costello

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

*(The congregation responds aloud with the bold text)*

Wilderness living calls us to seek God in the voice that cries out,

**“Valleys will be lifted up and mountains will be made low,”**

to seek God in the sound of the one who speaks of peace,

**“The day of the Lord is coming,”**

to seek God in the loud noise that foretells what will be made new.

**In the wilderness, let us listen only for God's voice.**

Let us worship God!

### † HYMN # 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

### PRAYER OF ADORATION

### LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Ellen, Andrew, Gabriel,  
and Graham Frank

## RESPONSE: HYMN # 842

"The Lord Is My Light"

The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion: in  
 God I trust; in God I trust. The

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a quarter rest, followed by a double bar line with repeat dots. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: C4, Bb3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, as we watch and wait for signs of your expansive love,  
**forgive our narrow thinking.**

As we repent in the wilderness with John,  
**we confess that we often lack the imagination to testify to the coming light.**

As we visit the home of Elizabeth,  
**we lament our loss of wonder and our failure to recognize miracles among us.**

Even as we hear the witness of angels and the shepherds,  
**we confess that we do not make haste to go and see the Christ.  
 Forgive our apathy and small-mindedness.**

**When the wait is over and all is finished,  
 open our minds to recognize the strength and wisdom of Christ, God with us.**

*Silent prayer of confession*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this good news: in Christ, there is strength and wisdom,  
 expansive love and everlasting grace.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

We are forgiven and being transformed  
to go and proclaim the wonder  
of the one who is coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Come.**

† **RESPONSE OF PRAISE: HYMN # 654**      “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”



In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -  
joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your  
voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

† **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](http://catonsvillepres.org).

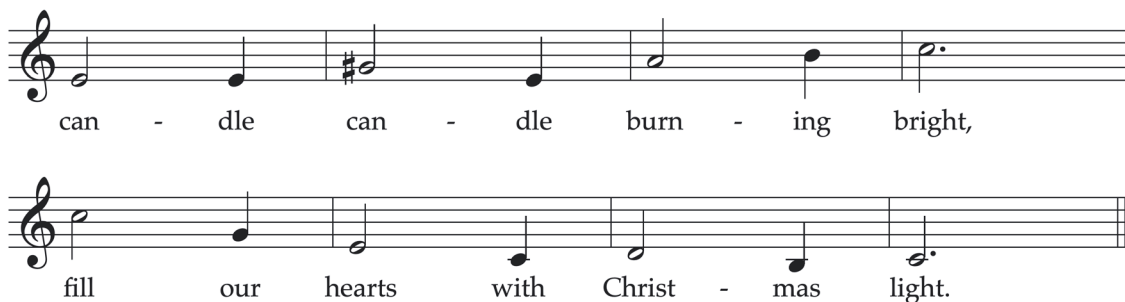
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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Light the Ad - vent can - dle, two:  
Think of hum - ble shep - herds, who  
filled with won - der at the sight  
of the child of Christ - mas night.  
Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright,  
shin - ing in the cold win - ter night;

*Continued on following page*



### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through your word, which stands forever. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:1-11  
*Pages 667-668 of the Old Testament*

### HYMN # 89 (VERSES 3-4)

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-8  
*Page 34 of the New Testament*

### SERMON

“On the Way”  
*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**

*Huron Carol*  
arr. Dan Forrest, adapted

† **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**

Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness have met, and your righteousness and peace have kissed. May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation. 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 # 106**

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

† **BENEDICTION**

May faithfulness spring up from the ground  
and righteousness look down from heaven  
as you walk in the way of peace;  
and may the blessing of God—Father, Son, Holy Spirit—be with you now and  
always. **Amen.**

† **POSTLUDE**

*Fanfare on "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying,"*  
setting by Michael Burkhardt

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Dorothy Boulton  
Associate Pastor

Audrey Coker,  
Acolyte

Keith and Kathy Glennan  
A/V Production

Bill Henderson  
Liturgist

Wendy Johnston  
Organist and Assistant  
Director of Music

Ken Kovacs  
Pastor

Greg Knauf  
Director of Music

Vickie Lord  
Social media support

## SOURCES

Image: Mosaic (12th century) of Saint John the Baptist in a Deesis (Supplication), Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey

*Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts*, Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Theology and Worship (Louisville: Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, 2023).

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

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## THIS ADVENT AT CPC

Visit [catonsvillepres.org/advent](https://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](https://catonsvillepres.org/advent) or contact the church office ([office@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:office@catonsvillepres.org)) to have one printed.

### Troop 306 Christmas Tree Sales

Scout Troop 306 are selling Christmas trees in the front lot facing Frederick Road until December 23 (or sooner if all trees are sold). 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.

Pick up a tree or a few holiday treats 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)

### Cocoa and Carols

On December 10 at 6:00 p.m., we will gather for Cocoa and Carols in the Fellowship Hall. A brass quintet will accompany our time together while we celebrate Advent and drink plenty of hot chocolate.

### Festive Service of Music

Worship on December 17 will be led by the choir, featuring 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](https://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](mailto:mpercy@umd.edu)) or Alison Enokian ([aenokian@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## LEARNING & GROWING

Find resources and articles at [catonsvillepres.org/belonging](https://catonsvillepres.org/belonging)

### Advent: Facing the Darkness Together

December 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.

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 December 14 | 10:30 a.m. in the Library and on Zoom

We’ll continue working our way through Ephesians this Thursday and examine Ephesians 5:21-6:9. We start at 10:30 a.m. and aim to finish up by noon. Bring your Bible! Visit [catonsvillepres.org/belonging](https://catonsvillepres.org/belonging) to find the complete schedule and Zoom information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Called to Serve

Do you feel the Spirit nudging you to take up a leadership position at CPC? Do you feel called to serve on the Session or Deacons? What about the Child Care Council or the Envision board? Is there someone you think would make a wonderful Elder or Deacon, someone with the gifts and skills to work on the Council or with Envision? Nominate someone or yourself using the form found at [catonsvillepres.org/belonging](https://catonsvillepres.org/belonging). Questions? See Melissa Lambdin, chair of the Nominating Committee.

### Today's Fellowship Hour

The Stephen Ministers are hosting Fellowship Hour this morning. You're invited to stop by their literature table and talk with one of the Stephen Ministers to learn more about this important ministry.

### Associate Pastor's Schedule

Dorothy Boulton will be out of the office this week. She will return for worship on Sunday, December 17.

### Family Christmas Eve Service

Our family Christmas Eve service is at 4 p.m. this year. Every child and youth is invited to contribute their gifts. Children and youth can choose from the following:

- Sharing your musical gifts by playing a piece for the prelude
- Reading a piece of liturgy or scripture during the service
- Dressing up and participating as a nativity character (e.g., Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, etc.)

Let Dorothy Boulton ([dboulton@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:dboulton@catonsvillepres.org)) know by December 10 so that we can arrange a short rehearsal.

### Book Drive

Church members are invited to help create a new resource library with the Dismantling Racism and Peace & Justice Committees. Please donate books that fit the broad theme of education on diversity, dismantling racism, social and structural change, and community building and revitalization. We want books for all ages—young children, youth, and adults—that that inspire, welcome, and challenge.

To share your recommendations and make a difference in Catonsville, bring your donations to the Library on Sunday mornings or drop them off in the church office during the week!

# EVENTS THIS WEEK

Day	Event	Location/time	Contact
<b>Today</b>	Adult Education	Library, 9:00 a.m.	Ken Kovacs kkovacs@catonsvillepres.org
	Worship	Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.	Church Office office@catonsvillepres.org
	Catonsville Concerts at 3	Sanctuary, 3 p.m.	David Hutton dhutton1@verizon.net
	Cocoa and Carols	Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.	Church office office@catonsvillepres.org
<b>Mon.</b>	Contemplative Prayer	France Room, 7 p.m.	Brenda Logue naylogue@aol.com
<b>Tues.</b>	Needlework Group	Zoom, 10:30 a.m.	Cindy Gunderson cinron.md@gmail.com
<b>Wed.</b>	Child Care Council	Church House 7:30 p.m.	Richard Johns richardwjohms@msn.com
<b>Thurs.</b>	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
<b>Next Sun.</b>	Worship	Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.	Church Office office@catonsvillepres.org
	Cookie Walk	Fellowship Hall, after worship	Church Office office@catonsvillepres.org

## 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 . . . . .	46	<i>50% of the total pledges for 2023</i>
Total amount pledged. . . . .	\$ 276,673	<i>74% of the amount pledged for 2023</i>

### Catonsville Presbyterian Church

1400 Frederick Rd., Catonsville MD 21228  
catonsvillepres.org • (410) 747-6180

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



**COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS**



## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

# For You, O Lord, My Soul

## 89

### in Stillness Waits

#### My Soul in Stillness Waits



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,  
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;  
 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,  
 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age;  
 5 Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us;  
 6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,



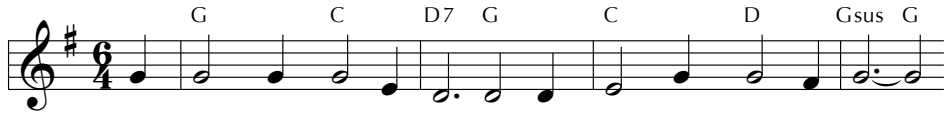
your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the  
 our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us  
 and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -  
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to  
 let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are  
 Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the



hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.  
 whole, be com - fort to our hearts.  
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
 us the path - way of your peace.  
 all the peo - ple of God's hand.  
 stars, and pres - ent to us now.

With a paraphrase of Psalm 62:5 as a refrain, this Advent text adapts four of the "Great O" antiphons (all of which can be seen in no. 88), combining them with a paraphrase of Psalm 95:6-7 and an echo of a medieval hymn. This rich blend yields a wealth of imagery and meaning.

# Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

## Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.