

Third Sunday of Advent

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 17, 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 Godgiven 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 full appreciate each individual's gifts and talents and help you to feel a part of this faith community.

"We are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born."

Meister Eckhart (c.1260-c.1328), theologian and mystic

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Service for the Lord's Day

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen, ("Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming") Op.122, No. 8, Johannes Brahms

The great Romantic composer, Johannes Brahms composed opus 122 for organ during the last summer of his life. These miniatures have a warm autumnal quality that is uniquely Brahmsian, and this setting of "Lo, How a Rose" is particularly so. The poem draws upon biblical prophecy that the newborn Christ will grow from the "stem of Jesse," the father of King David.

INTROIT

This night a wondrous revelation
A great and mighty wonder,
Makes known to me God's love and grace;
A full and holy cure,
The Child that merits adoration
The Virgin bears the Infant,
Brings light to our benighted race.
The Word Incarnate sure.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as prophets long have sung. It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, Arr. Robert Scholz, adapted

Isaiah twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore for all a Savior, When half-spent was the night.

[†] Please rise in body or in spirit

†CALL TO WORSHIP

(The congregation responds aloud with the bold text)

With open hands, we proclaim:

God promises to bring good news to the afflicted, the disenfranchised, the oppressed, the tormented, the grieving, and the imprisoned.

With open spirits, we shout with joy.

God calls us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks constantly.

With open minds, we gather in God's covenant.

God sanctifies us so that we will be ready for the coming of the Lord. Let us worship God!

† HYMN #107

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

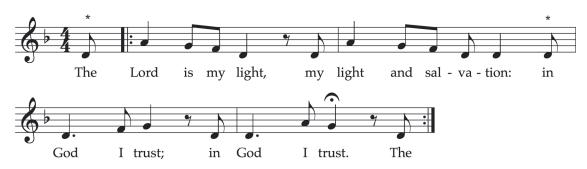
PRAYER OF ADORATION

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Erin, Kevin, Owen, and Deacon Flis

RESPONSE: HYMN #842

"The Lord Is My Light"



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.

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

Come, Lord Jesus. Come.

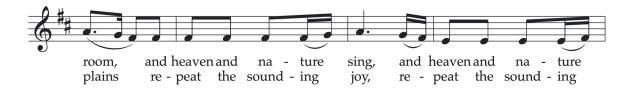
[†] Please rise in body or in spirit

[†]RESPONSE OF PRAISE: HYMN #134

"Joy to the World"









†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 <u>catonsvillepres.org</u>.

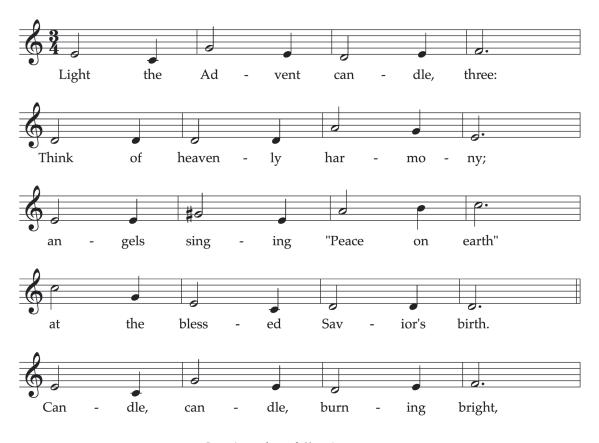
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Renton

Ralph and Lainie Surette

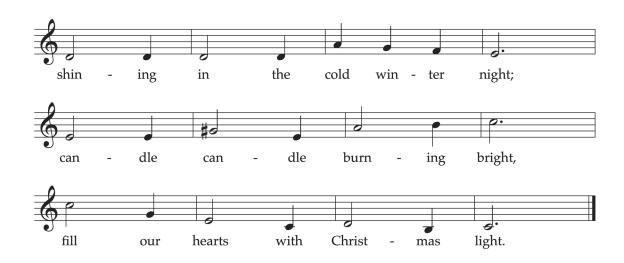
PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Continued on following page

[†] Please rise in body or in spirit



ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Arr. John Ferguson

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" so says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance since the Kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way! Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain! Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign! For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illuminate our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit our lives may reflect God's glory and goodness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38

Pages 56-57 of the New Testament

HYMN #100

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

MEDITATION

"Annunciations" Ken Kovacs

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS



OFFERTORY

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain
Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world, Lift up your voice, shout the good news: behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry the lambs in his arms, He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven, he who fashioned the earth and the sea, From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, he. Behold, your Lord!

[†] Please rise in body or in spirit

He will come in power and glory, he will rule with mercy truth, Hope of all the nations, light of all the world!

He will love the little children, he will hold them in his arms. Love him and trust him as a child, behold, your Lord comes to you.

†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

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of your love in Jesus Christ. And thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have received with others, and of receiving the gifts that others share with us.

With our whole being—spirit and soul and body—we rejoice in you and sing your praise because our joy is in you. Amen.

ANTHEM

Carol of Joy, Dan Forrest text by Eileen Berry

Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry; Brief sunset fading, dim winter sky. Lengthening shadows, Dark closing in... Then, through the stillness, carols begin!

Oh fallen world, to you is the song—Death holds you fast and night tarries long. Jesus is born, your curse to destroy! Sweet to your ears, a carol of Joy!

Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow; Cold barren hillside, shrouded in snow; Deep, empty valley veiled by the night; Hear angel music—hopeful and bright! Oh fearful world, to you is the song—Peace with your God, and pardon for wrong!

Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound—A carol of joy! A Saviour is found!

Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes! Thrill to the chorus filling the skies! Look up sad hearted—witness God's love! Join in the carol swelling above! Oh friendless world, to you is the song! All Heaven's joy to you may belong! You who are lonely, laden, forlorn—Now unto you, A Saviour is born!

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 #119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

† BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

Amen.

† POSTLUDE

Christmas Joy, by Gilbert Martin

Please enjoy these joyful settings of "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" and "What Star is This," by Massachusetts native and composer Gilbert Martin.

[†] Please rise in body or in spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Dorothy Boulton Keith and Kathy Glennan Ken Kovacs Associate Pastor A / V Production **Pastor** John Dittman Wendy Johnston Greg Knauf Director of Music Organist and Assistant Liturgist Director of Music The Flis Family Vickie Lord Candle Lighters Social media support

MUSICIANS

Tom Enokian, percussion

Josh Faison, oboe

Amanda McKay, viola

Andrew Glennan, cello

Steve Haaser, flute

Laurie White, violin

Erin Fils, Wendy

Kronmiller, Nancy Miller,
and Betsy Hall, handbells

SOURCES

Image: "The Annunciation" attributed to Melozzo da Forli. Fresco (1438-1494), in the Chapel of the Annunciation, Pantheon. Rome, Italy.

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

Permission to podcast/stream the

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

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ABOUT THE CRÈCHE

The hand-carved, olivewood crèche was made by Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem. Ken Kovacs brought it back from Bethlehem after being on a Holy Land pilgrimage tour in 2007 that was hosted by Princeton Theological Seminary and the Cousins Foundation. It was purchased from gifts made to the Memorial Fund.

THIS ADVENT AT CPC

Visit <u>catonsvillepres.org/advent</u> to view all upcoming events.

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)

Blue Christmas

We will gather a few days prior to the winter solstice, 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

Access the articles for Adult Education at catonsvillepres.org/belonging

How to Know a Person

Sunday, January 7 | Led by Ken Kovacs | 9:00 a.m. in the Library

David Brooks' *How to Know a Person* is a book for our times. With the increasing divisiveness of American society and growing isolation many are experiencing these days, people are searching for communion and community, yet don't know how to connect. "People want to connect," Brooks writes, "Above almost any other need, human beings long to have another person look into their faces with love and acceptance. The issue is that we lack practical knowledge about how to give one another the attention we crave. Some days it seems like we have intentionally built a society that gives people little guidance on how to perform the most important activities of life."

Perils and Promise of the Pulpit

Sunday, January 21 | Led by Ken Kovacs | 9:00 a.m. in the Library

Thomas Long, the "dean" of American Protestant preachers, former professor of preaching at Princeton Seminary and Candler Divinity School at Emory, wrote an essay in The Presbyterian Outlook, which has received a lot of attention: *The Perilous and Promising Pulpit*.

Long believes, "In a new and disturbing way, preaching has become perilous." But there's room for promise when we remember what is really going on when a congregation faithfully and courageously listens for the Word of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Office Hours

In observance of Christmas, the church office will be closed beginning at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, and will reopen at 9 a.m. on Thursday, December 28.

Cookie Walk

After worship, please join us in Fellowship Hall for our annual CPC Cookie Walk! You will have the opportunity to choose from an amazing selection of homemade cookies and candies! The cost for this delicious array is \$10 per pound. All proceeds will go to support the Santi School in Nepal.

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. Questions? See Melissa Lambdin, chair of the Nominating Committee.

Book Drive

Church members are invited to help create a new resource library. Please donate books that fit the broad theme of education on diversity, dismantling racism, social and structural change, and community building and revitalization. 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!

CPC Doubles its Gift Giving to Seafarers!

Wow! The CPC congregation was "all in" in preparing 135 Christmas at Sea bags for international seafarers who visit the Port of Baltimore during this time of the year. Sixty-six bags were delivered last year.

The Mission Committee thanks all those who contributed to Christmas at Sea. During the Advent Gathering many members of the CPC community took part in assembling the bags with a warm hat, scarf, handwarmers, and a Baltimore souvenir. And eight families shopped for and completed their own bags beforehand. Finally, Christmas cards were added to each gift, having been signed by members of the congregation throughout November.

Most of the gifts were sponsored with donations from members and friends of CPC. In total, the Mission Committee raised \$1,904 for this project. Bills for the purchases of the gift items are now being processed.

Mission members Linda Meyer and Brenda Logue made the delivery to the Baltimore International Seafarers Center on December 5. The Rev. Joshua Messick, Director, and John Thompson, Treasurer, welcomed the gifts with open arms – indicating they were just what they wanted and needed!

The Mission Committee is most grateful for all the participation in this year's event – from generously donating, signing cards, assembling bags, and building your own. This annual project is a special one during the holiday season as we remember Lee Van Koten's extensive work and dedication to the Seafarers Center.

On behalf of the Mission Committee,

Glenda Johnson & Brenda Logue



EVENTS THIS WEEK

Day	Event	Location/time	Contact
Today	Third Sunday of Advent	Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.	Church office office@catonsvillepres.org
	Cookie Walk	Fellowship Hall, after worship	Church office office@catonsvillepres.org
Mon.	Blue Christmas	Sanctuary, 7 p.m.	Church office office@catonsvillepres.org
Tues.	Needlework Group	Zoom, 10:30 a.m.	Cindy Gunderson cinron.md@gmail.com
	Staff meeting	Church house, 1 p.m.	Church office office@catonsvillepres.org
	Passages circle	7 p.m.	Laurie White thewhites@brickhouse112.com
Thurs.	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary, 7 p.m.	Greg Knauf gknauf@catonsvillepres.org
Next Sun.	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.	Church office office@catonsvillepres.org
	Family Christmas Eve	Sanctuary, 4 p.m.	Church office office@catonsvillepres.org
	Candlelight Christmas Eve	Sanctuary, 8 p.m.	Church office office@catonsvillepres.org

2024 PLEDGE UPDATE

"Thank you for your amazing response to this year's stewardship campaign. We are so grateful for your generosity. Of the 51 pledges received, 3 are new this year, 18 renewed at the same amount as 2023, 28 increased their pledge, and 2 decreased their pledge. Of those who were able to increase their pledge, the average increase is 12%." — Jadie Mayes and Keith Glennan, *pledge secretaries*

Pledges received 51	55% of the total pledges for 2023
Total amount pledged\$ 299,313	81% of the amount pledged for 2023

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT CATONSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24 | 10:30 a.m.

Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24 | 4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 24 | 8:00 p.m.

First Sunday of Christmas Carol Sing

December 31 | 10:30 a.m.









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.

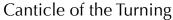
107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



wide the heaven-ly door and lives now in side us for ever. of his an-thems rolls to shat-ter all ha-tred and vio lence. raised a bove the strong, and weap-ons be bro-ken a sun-der. ever ever day we share and bring us at last in to glo-ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5–6, Isaiah 2:4.

$100\,$ My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout





- 1 Mv soul cries out with a ful shout that the joy -2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
- halls 3 From the of power to the for - tress tower, not
- 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of heart and my spir - it sings my is great, work great things and your mer - cy will last from the in me, stone will be left on stone. Let the king be ware for your mem - ber who holds God's de us fast: mer - cy must



things that you bring who won - drous the ones wait. to depths of the past to the end of the age to be. tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne. ius liv from the con - quer-or's crush - ing er us grasp.

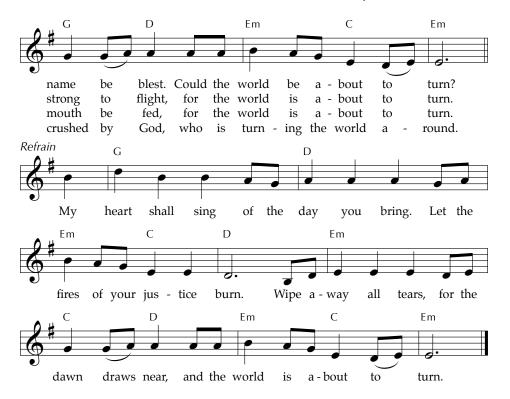


sight You fixed your ser - vant's plight, on your my the shame. to Your name ver y puts proud to The poor shall weep the no more, for hun gry the This - ing word that fore - bears heard is sav our



did not spurn, so from east to west weak - ness you those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the Magnificat, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.



119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

