



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

8:00 P.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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

All Hail Most Joyful Day of Days, BWV 605, setting by Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude on the Sussex Carol, setting by Russel Schulz-Widmar

Bring a Torch, setting by Wayne L. Wold

Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci jubilo,' setting by Johann Michael Bach

Chorale Fantasia on 'In dulci jubilo,' BWV 729, setting by Johann Sebastian Bach

PROCESSIONAL: HYMN # 140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

On the final verse, you are invited to rise in body or in spirit, joining the choir in song.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

(The congregation responds aloud with the bold text)

The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

For a child has been born for us,
a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest!

To us is born in the city of David a Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

In him was life and his life is the light of all people.
Christ’s light still shines in the darkest places
and darkness shall not overcome it.

† HYMN # 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, as you came at night when all was still,
so enter our lives this night.

Illumine our paths with the light of Christ’s presence,
that we may clearly see
the way, the truth, and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

This evening’s offering will be given to the Christmas Joy Offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The offering is equally distributed between the denomination’s Assistance Program for church workers and colleges that equip communities of color.



In recognition of our commitment to God and our gratitude for all God has given to us, we present our gifts, our offerings, and our tithes. In response to this good news of great joy, we offer songs of praise, our offerings, these gifts, our lives.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, we offer our gifts to you to further the promise of hope, peace, love, and justice in our community and in your world. Empower us, O God, to follow these gifts into the world around us so that they—and we—become bearers of your peace, love, and justice on the earth. Amen.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

MUSIC

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen,
Arr. Molly Ijames

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**We would make room for you this night of all nights, dear Lord:
room in our minds and hearts;
room also in our lives, whether together or apart.**

**Let your word be born in us anew, so that,
by the power of the Holy Spirit, your splendor shines in us and through us.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2b-7
Page 638 of the Old Testament

ANTHEM

How Sweet is Love (Quam Dulcis Est Amor),
Michael Paget

A Child is born in Bethlehem; awaiteth Him all Jerusalem.
Amor, amor, quam dulcis est amor.

The angels above were singing then; below were rejoicing the shepherd men.
Amor, amor, quam dulcis est amor.

Now let us all with the angels sing; Yea, now let our hearts for gladness spring.
Amor, amor, quam dulcis est amor.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9
Pages 640-641 of the Old Testament

HYMN # 158

"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-35, 38
Pages 56-57 of the New Testament

HYMN # 113

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20
Page 58 of the New Testament

MEDITATION

Ken Kovacs

HYMN # 134

“Joy to the World”

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE &
THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Glory to you, O God, for good news of great joy that you give to all people.
Thank you for Jesus Christ, Immanuel, who lived among us and now reigns on
high.

Thank you for his light that continues to shine in the places of darkness and
shadow.

With the angels we sing praise to you, celebrating your glory in all the earth,
in the Son given to us, and in your promised salvation.

Hear your church, Holy One, as we pray for your church in every place,
that we may make known to others what has been told to us about Jesus,
the child born in Bethlehem.

O Christ, our Light,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the church...

With Mary, help us to treasure and ponder the gift that has been given to us,
a gift of good news and great joy for all.

O Christ, our Light,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world...

With the prophets, help us to proclaim the promise of your people
for all nations and your justice for all people.

O Christ, our Light,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this community...

With the shepherds, help us to keep watch over those entrusted to our care
and all who need protection this night.

For healthcare providers and hospital workers caring for the sick and dying.
For those lonely and alone this night whether in a hospital room or at home,
in a prison cell or in a shelter.

O Christ, our Light,
hear our prayer.

We pray for loved ones...

With angels, help us to offer signs of hope, comfort, and joy
for all who live in fear,
for all who are sad,
for all those missing loved ones on this holy night.

O Christ, our Light,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world,
help us to bear witness to your light that shines
all the brighter when the world is dark.

Shine in our hearts and families and communities this night.

And hear us in the prayer our Savior taught us, saying,

**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.**

ANTHEM

Love Came Down at Christmas,
K. Lee Scott

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

EFFLUENCE OF THE LIGHT

John 1:1-5, 14, 16

HYMN # 122 (REMAIN SEATED)

“Silent Night”

† Please rise in body or in spirit

BENEDICTION

On this holy night,

May you be filled with the light of God,
filled with God's life, God's joy, God's hope.

Do not be afraid;
this light, indestructible, shines in the darkness.

May the love of God enfold us,
the joy of Christ encompass us,
and the Holy Spirit empower us
and abide with us this night and forever.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Festival Prelude on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
Neil Harmon

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Dorothy Boulton
Associate Pastor

Greg Knauf
Director of Music

Ann Quinn
Clarinet

Keith and Kathy Glennan
A/V Production

Ken Kovacs
Pastor

Natalia Vladimirova
Violin

Wendy Johnston
Organist and Assistant
Director of Music

Vickie Lord
Social media support

SOURCES

Cover image: Missal of Eberhard von Greiffenklau (15th century), Nativity, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD

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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ABOUT THE CRÈCHE

The hand-carved, olivewood crèche was made by Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem (Israel). 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.

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION

“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."



YOU BELONG, IN YOUR FAITH AND IN YOUR DOUBT

On this sacred night of great joy and peace, we profess that God is truly with us, abundantly present in every corner of the world and our lives. To welcome each other is to welcome the light of God in this world; it is to become a community where Christ may be born anew.

If you are joining us for the first time, we invite you to share your information by scanning the QR code or by visiting catonsvillepres.org/subscribe. We'll send a welcome message and help connect you to our dynamic church programming.

But whether you're a long-time member or a first-time visitor, know this: you belong. In your faith, and in your doubt.

First Sunday of Christmas Carol Sing

December 31 | 10:30 a.m.



COVENANT NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIANS

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.

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

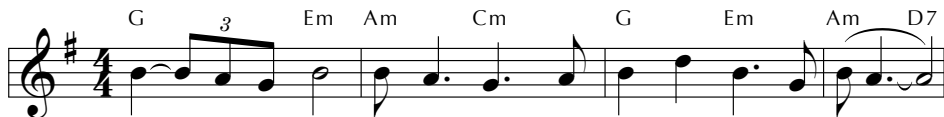
Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Born in the Night, Mary's Child 158



- 1 Born in the night, Mar-y's Child, a long way from your home;
- 2 Clear shin-ing light, Mar-y's Child, your face lights up our way;
- 3 Truth of our life, Mar-y's Child, you tell us God is good;
- 4 Hope of the world, Mar-y's Child, you're com-ing soon to reign;



com - ing in need, Mar - y's Child, born in a bor - rowed room.
Light of the world, Mar - y's Child, dawn on our dark - ened day.
yes, it is true, Mar - y's Child, shown on your cross of wood.
King of the earth, Mar - y's Child, walk in our streets a - gain.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Carried by a blues-like tune, this text of clustered phrases centers on the core words "Mary's Child," initially linking images that suggest a Nativity hymn, but by the third stanza widening to the full arc of the Incarnation: birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, return.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Jesus Christ: Birth". It consists of two staves, a vocal line on top and a piano accompaniment on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

134

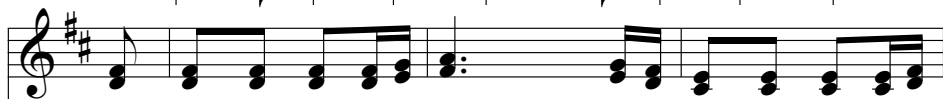
Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,

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.

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

- 1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

- 1 고요한밤 거룩한밤
 어둠에 묻힌밤
 주의부모 앉아서
 감사기도 드릴때
 아기잘도 잔다
 아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

- 1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.