

# *Blended Worship Service*

*Sunday, December 17, 2023*

*8:30 a.m.*

*\*People Standing*

## **\*Gathering and Singing**

*Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)  
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

## **\*Welcome and Announcements**

## **Lighting of the Third Advent Candle**

## **Prayer Joys and Concerns**

**Call to Prayer** *Magnificant*

## **Morning Prayer**

**\*Gospel Reading** *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

**Message** *Who Are You?* *Rev. David Jacobson*

**Communion** *Creator of the Stars of Night*

**\*Response** *Hark the Herald/O Come All Ye Faithful*

## **\*Benediction**

*Offering plates are available as you leave,  
including one for the Benevolence Offering.*

# *Celebration of Worship*

*Sunday, December 17, 2023*

*10:00 a.m.*

*\*Indicates the Congregation is asked to stand*

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

*Welcome to worship! The 10 a.m. service is recorded and streamed live online.*

*The first nine rows of seats may occasionally appear in the recording.*

**Prelude**            *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*            John Behnke

**Choral Introit**        *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*            Jacques Berthier  
*Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,*        (Taizé Community)  
*and all people will see the salvation of our God.*                        (from Isaiah 40)

**\*Opening Hymn – No. 203**            *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

### **\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** In this season of Advent, we recall the great deeds of the Lord.

**People:** **Our hearts overflow with thanks and joy.**

**Leader:** We celebrate the wonders God has done for us.

**People:** **In our worship, we express our deep joy and gratitude.**

**Leader:** We are anticipating the joy of Christ's coming.

**People:** **We gather in hopeful expectation and praise.**

### **\*Opening Prayer (Collect for Purity)**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **\*Gloria Patri – No. 70**

### **Words of Welcome**

## **Lighting of the Third Advent Candle**

*Following the lighting of the candles and a reading from Isaiah 61:1-3, the congregation prays words inspired by Isaiah 12:*

**Leader:** Surely God is my salvation. I will trust and not be afraid.

**People:** **For the Lord is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.**

**All:** **With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation. Amen.**

## **Sung Response - No. 211 (v. 6)**

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## **Junior Choir**

*Come to Us, Emmanuel*

Carol McClure

*Come to us, Emmanuel, Christ, whose hope we now await, whose birth the prophets did foretell, come to us we pray.*

*Come to us, Emmanuel, Christ, whose love we now await, whose birth the prophets did foretell, come to us we pray.*

*Come to us, Emmanuel, Christ, whose joy we now await, whose birth the prophets did foretell, come to us we pray.*

*Shine in us, Emmanuel, Christ, whose light we celebrate, whose birth the prophets did foretell, shine in us we pray.*

## **Sunday School**

*Joy in My Heart*

George William Cooke

*I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart to stay!  
And I'm so happy, so very happy that I've got the love of Jesus in my heart!*

*I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart, down in my heart to stay!  
And I'm so happy, so very happy that I've got the love of Jesus in my heart!*

*I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart, down in my heart to stay!  
And I'm so happy, so very happy that I've got the love of Jesus in my heart*

## **Morning Prayer**

**Merciful God of peace, your work, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world. Amen.**

## Quiet Prayer - Pastoral Prayer

### The Giving and Receiving of Our Tithes and Offering

*On the third Sunday of the month, we receive two offerings. The first time the plates come by is the general church offering. The second time is the Benevolence offering, to assist persons in need locally.*

#### Offertory Anthem

*Advent Carol*

Alfred Feda

*Desert, blossom as a Rose Rising, radiant as it grows,  
All arrayed in crimson show; Come to us, O God of Hope.  
Thirsty land, become a stream, flowing fountain, calm, serene.  
Clear cascade from heaven above; Come to us, O God of Love.  
Weakened hands, be now made strong; Silent tongues, break forth in song;  
Blinded eyes, your sight employ; Come to us, O God of Joy.  
Soon a pathway shall be found, for the faithful, Holy Ground;  
Safe from angry, warring beast; Come to us, O God of Peace.  
Sing God's praise, Jerusalem; Hope, joy, love, and peace shall come;  
Sorrow, sighing now dispel; Come to us, Emmanuel.  
King of Glory, Soul of Bliss, Everlasting life is this:  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, thus to sing, and thus to love! Alleluia.*

Text: Carol McClure

#### \*Presentation of the Offering – No. 95

*Praise God*

#### \*Hymn of Preparation – No. 206 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

#### \*Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (Pew Bible p. 860)

#### Sermon

*Who Are You?*

Rev. David Jacobson

#### Holy Communion - No. 12

*Come forward via the center aisle to receive. You may commune immediately after receiving the elements, or you may kneel at the rail to commune. Return to your seat via the side aisles. Please indicate to an usher if you wish to receive communion in your seat. Pre-packaged gluten-free elements are available upon request.*

# Hymns for the Serving - No. 196, 617, 622, 626

## Prayer Following Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn – No. 202**                      *People, Look East*

## \*Benediction

**Choral Benediction**            *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*            *Veni Emmanuel*  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*            (15<sup>th</sup> cent. French)

**Postlude**                                      *People, Look East*                                      J. Wayne Kerr

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## **Catonsville United Methodist Church**

6 Melvin Avenue -- Catonsville, MD 21228

Office: 410-747-1886    E-mail: [cumc21228@verizon.net](mailto:cumc21228@verizon.net)

[www.catonsvilleumc.org](http://www.catonsvilleumc.org)

Sunday, December 17, 2023 ~ 7:00 p.m.

## *Contemporary Praise Celebration*



**Opening Song:** *"Hosanna"*

**Advent Candle Lighting**

**Welcome & Birthdays**

*Karen Higby*

**Words of Praise:** Psalm 16: 11

*Mary Coates*

**Praise & Worship:**

*"Isn't he?"*

*"Father of Lights"*

**Greeting & Passing of the Peace**

**Offering & Music Video:**

*"Emmanuel God with Us"* - Chris Tomlin

**Announcements, Joys & Concerns**

**Prayer and Reflection**

**Scripture Reading and Message:** John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28

*"Who Are You?"*

*David Jacobson*

**Closing Song:** *"Go Tell It on the Mountains"*

## *Intercessory Prayer Concerns*

### **For the week of December 17<sup>th</sup>:**

Janice Arcieri  
Brian  
Greg Martin

Brenda Sutton  
Rose Caldwell  
Roger Atkinson

Kathy  
Laura Katta  
Debbie Hobbs Klar

*Sympathies are extended to the family of Ernie Mullinix  
who went to be with the Lord on December 9, 2023.*

*Sympathies are extended to the family of June Burgee  
who went to be with the Lord on December 10, 2023.*

*A Memorial Service will be held on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.*

This week we pray for: ***Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan,  
and the Mainland of China***

### **We give thanks for:**

- the long and complex history of China, with its many artefacts, cultures and traditions that have developed over millennia
- those who established missions and churches in the past, and the determination of Chinese Christians to contextualize the church here and now
- those who boldly live out their faith, challenging injustices even when they fear persecution
- the economic growth and development that have lifted many out of poverty
- the steps China is taking to counter huge environmental challenges.

### **We pray for:**

- those left behind and further marginalized by rising economic growth, especially women and peasants in rural areas
- the political and social tensions between the mainland of China and Hong Kong and the rest of the world
- a growth in prophetic witness of the Chinese church in society
- for greater understanding and cooperation between Taiwan and the Mainland of China
- spiritual meaning and freedom from captivity to economic growth and consumerism.

### **Our Working Vision Statement**

*We seek to be a hospitable and vibrant intergenerational community steeped in prayer and scripture and empowered by the Holy Spirit to make disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing the blessings of the kingdom of God in Catonsville and beyond.*

## **Week of December 17 - 23, 2023**

### **Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Blended Service	11:00 a.m. Swahili Service, SH
10:00 a.m. Sunday School	1:30 p.m. A.A., 206
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship	3:00 p.m. Daisy 385, 202
11:00 a.m. Jr. Choir, 206	7:00 p.m. Praise Service

### **Monday – Pastor’s Sabbath**

6:30 p.m. Recital, Sanctuary	7:00 p.m. Round Dance, SH
7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Library	7:00 p.m. BSA 307G, SR

### **Tuesday**

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Library	7:00p.m. Girl Scouts 2188, 204
11:00 p.m. Prayer Time	7:00 p.m. BSA 307B, SR, SH
1:30 p.m. Grief Group, Library	7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Greenhats, 208
4:30 p.m. Daisy 884, SR	8:00 p.m. A.A., 206

### **Wednesday**

11:30 a.m. Warm Welcome Lunch, SH	7:00 p.m. Cubs, SH
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawls, Library	7:00 p.m. Bible Study, 211
6:00 p.m. Cubs 307, 201-5, SR, 305	

### **Thursday**

4:30 p.m. Brownies 178, SR	7:00 p.m. Grief Group, Library
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 1640, SR	7:00 p.m. Square Dance, SH
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 2499, 305	7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, 209
7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service	

### **Friday**

7:30 p.m. MS Youth Group	8:45 p.m. HS Youth Group
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### **Saturday**

8:00 a.m. Methodist Girls	9:00 a.m. Ballroom Dance, SH
8:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study, 211	12:00 p.m. AA, 208

***The Church Office will be closed  
December 23, 2023 – January 1, 2024.  
Voicemails and emails will be checked daily.***

**The altar flowers** are given in loving memory of our parents, Virginia & William Bowman and Richard Bracken by Linda & Phil Bowman and family.

**The flower arrangement** is given in memory of Alva Smith-Grubb for her birthday by Linda & Dan Hammil.

**The bulletins** are given in loving memory of my husband, Les Milbourne on the occasion of our anniversary by Barbara Milbourne.

**Serving today:**

**8:30 a.m.**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Greeters:**

Joanne Feustle  
Scott Ensor

Jan Strevig

**Interpreter:**

Cheryl Haskins

**Communion Servers:**

Joanne Feustle  
Scott Ensor

Ginger Bartlett

Marge Odom

Rick Buckingham

**Lector:**

Jan Strevig

**Steward:**

Amelia Troll

**Congratulations** to Don Fries for his 35 years of service to CUMC! Don became our organist in 1988 and took on the role of Director of Music in 2001. That's a lot of services, rehearsals, and work behind the scenes. That means that he played for 3,659 services, which included 10,977 hymns, with 840 choir rehearsals and anthems. And let's not forget the 13 Zoom rehearsals and 26 virtual anthems. (All numbers are estimates, but they were thoughtfully calculated.) This does not count funerals, weddings and talent shows! Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and all the beautiful music, Don!

**Large-print bulletins** are available from the greeters & ushers.

**Christmas Blessings** to You & Your Loved Ones as this Holy Advent Season evolves. As in the past, our rear 3<sup>rd</sup> floor sanctuary mitten tree will be decorated with your donations of school age winter hats, gloves, mittens & socks. These donations will be collected & shared with local Catonsville schools by January 12, 2024. We have a second donation surrounding the base of our sanctuary Christmas tree for Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP, Columbia MD chapter). NEW Light weight blankets & quilts for twin size bedding will be collected and donated for children's beds built by SHP, as "NO CHILD SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR". For more information contact Bonnie Dickson, 410-245-6335

**Greeters and Ushers are needed** for the Christmas Eve Services. The Children's Service is at 5 p.m., the Traditional Service is at 7 p.m. and the Candlelight Service starts at 10:45 p.m. Please call or email the church office if you can help.

We have a lovely **Parent and Little Ones Room** available during the Sunday morning service times. Young children are certainly welcome in the Sanctuary; this room is another option for parents with babies or toddlers who may need it. Downstairs one level, in Room 210, you will find rocking chairs, toys, books, and a live stream of the worship service, so you may continue joining for worship. If you need anything while you are there, please ask the steward in the Church Office.

**Are You Struggling?** You do not have to face it alone. If you or someone you care about is challenged by a temporary crisis in your life, CUMC's Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and be there to offer emotional and spiritual support. This is free and completely confidential. Let one of our trained Stephen Ministers meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or in person in a safe setting to focus on you and your needs. For more information, please contact Stephen Minister Referrals Coordinator, Glenda Henkel, at 410-303-6057 or [grhenkel320@gmail.com](mailto:grhenkel320@gmail.com).

Have you visited our **Upper Room** Prayer Room lately? We hope you will find time for stillness, prayer, and reflection there. We have made updates and created new stations for an Advent themed space. The Upper Room reopens today and will remain open throughout Advent. Please plan a visit. Prayer changes lives!

**We are going to gather** for an informal time of prayer with the focus of "Praying for Our Adult Children." Even when they are grown, our children still need our prayers. Prayers for a connection with God, most importantly. We will also pray for their direction, guidance, safety, wise decision making, and health, as well as pray concerning dating, marriage, family, and career. Does this type of praying together speak to you? Mark your calendar - the first monthly gathering will be on January 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., following Thrive Thursday. The gathering will be held in the Upper Room (Level 3).

**The church office** operates remotely Monday and Wednesday, and in person on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Emails and phone messages are checked regularly.

**Christmas Cards for the Kids** Thank you to everyone who participated! The cards have been delivered and are spreading Christian love at Christmas to each student at Steps of Hope. In February your generous donations will continue the blessings. Our VIM team will have three days of Bible School and be able to make upgrades and do repairs needed at Steps of Hope.

**Saturday morning men's Bible study** is in Room 211, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Light breakfast is provided.

**Winter Coats:** The Westside Men's Shelter and Warm Welcome Lunch people are requesting coats for ALL age groups. Your donation will provide warmth for those in need. Coats that are water resistant are best. Please place them outside of Loriann's office door or make a monetary donation to purchase the coats.

**Give A Helping Hand** Night of Peace is a homeless shelter in the Windsor Mill area continually helping approximately 10-15 parents and children. They provide food, shelter, and support in a safe environment while their families work to transition to permanent housing. You can help with their ongoing wish list of needs: kids and women's socks, underwear and slippers, diapers, grocery store gift cards, snacks, disposable dinnerware, cereal, laundry detergent, etc. A full wishlist is posted outside of Loriann Hughes' office. Donations are accepted each month on the Fourth Sunday.

### *Christmas Week Services*



Blue Christmas Service on  
December 21<sup>st</sup> - 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 10:00 a.m.

#### Christmas Eve

Family (Pageant) - 5:00 p.m.

Traditional (Carols and CUMC Brass) - 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight with Choir - 10:45 p.m.

One Morning Service on December 31<sup>st</sup> - 10:00 a.m.

## Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succor speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.
4. To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever;  
that name to us is love.

## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

### Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]
- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]

## People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.