

# *Celebration of Worship*

***Sunday, December 24, 2023***

***10:00 a.m.***

*\*Indicates the Congregation is asked to stand*

## ***Fourth 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**

*What Child Is This*

Christopher Uehlein

**Choral Introit**

*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

Jacques Berthier

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.*

(Taizé Community)  
(from Isaiah 40)

**\*Opening Hymn – No. 219**

*What Child Is This*

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: In this season of waiting, we recall the angel's message to Mary

**People: With joy and hope, we open our hearts to God's  
miraculous promise.**

Leader: God calls us to witness the unfolding of salvation.

**People: We respond in faith, ready to embrace God's wondrous  
gift.**

Leader: Let us worship and rejoice, for Emmanuel is coming.

**People: In God's love made flesh, we find our peace and salvation.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

**O God of Elizabeth and Mary,**

**you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption**

**in the coming of the Savior. Make our hearts leap with joy,**

**and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce**

**glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri – No. 70**

## Welcome and Announcements

### Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Leader: We watch and wait for Christ's coming! We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

*The four Advent candles are lighted.*

Hear again the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:17:  
"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

**People: God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come. Amen.**

### Sung Response - No. 211 (v. 7)

*O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

### Choir Anthem *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*

James Laster  
(Text: Palmer)

*Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, Virgin-mother undefiled.  
Sing of God's own Son most holy, who became her little child.  
Fairest child of fairest mother, God the Lord who came to earth,  
Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.*

*Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.  
Toil and labor cannot weary love enduring unto death.  
Constant was the love he gave her, though it went forth from her side,  
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, till on Calvary he died.*

*Glory be to God the Father; glory be to God the Son;  
glory be to God the Spirit; glory to the Three in One.  
From the heart of blessed Mary, from all saints the song ascends,  
and the church the strain re-echoes unto earth's remotest ends.*

## **Morning Prayer**

**Ever faithful God,  
through prophets and angels,  
you promised to raise up a holy child  
who would establish a household of peace and justice.  
Open our hearts to receive your Son,  
that we may open our doors  
to welcome all people as sisters and brothers,  
and establish your household in our time. Amen.**

## **Quiet Prayer**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

## **Lord's Prayer**

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

**Offertory**                      *Of the Father's Love Begotten*                      Christopher Uehlein

**\*Presentation of the Offering – No. 95**                      *Praise God*

**\*Hymn of Preparation – No. 242**                      *Love Came Down at Christmas*

**\*Gospel Reading**                      Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible p. 830)

**Sermon**                      Rev. David Jacobson

**\*Closing Hymn – No. 237**                      *Sing We Now of Christmas*

## **\*Benediction**

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

**Streaming Permissions for 10:00 Service**

*What Child is This (GREENSLEEVES)*  
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*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.*

***Catonsville United Methodist Church***

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*Donald L. Fries - Director of Music & Organist*

*Church Office - Kathy Kluka (410-747-1886 or [cumc21228@verizon.net](mailto:cumc21228@verizon.net))*

*Misty Troll - Director of Christian Formation*

*Loriann Hughes – Director of Youth Ministries*

*Michael Schmitt – Early Music & Communications Coordinator*

## *Intercessory Prayer Concerns*

**For the week of December 24<sup>th</sup>:**

Janice Arcieri

Brenda Sutton

Kathy

Debbie Hobbs Klar

Greg Martin

Roger Atkinson

*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.*

*Sympathies are expressed to the family and friends of Rose Caldwell  
who went to be with the Lord on December 12, 2023.*

*Sympathies are extended to the family of Laura Katta  
Who went to be with the Lord on December 15, 2023.*

*Sympathies are extended to Amy Sukeena  
in the loss of her husband Todd Sukeena on December 15, 2023.  
A service is planned in January.*

This week we pray for: ***Japan, North Korea, South Korea***

**We give thanks for:**

- the distinctive temples, art and cultures in the region
- the education and economic developments that have improved the lives of many in Japan and South Korea
- how the council of churches in Japan has promoted reconciliation with the rest of Asia
- the prophetic witness of Christians in Japan and South Korea
- the persistent witness to justice for “comfort women” from the Second World War
- the Ecumenical Forum for Peace, Reunification and Development Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula, which with others has sought to reunify Korea, to defend human rights, and to work for peace and justice.

**We pray for:**

- an end to repression of people and to threats of military confrontation, especially on the Korean peninsula
- the reunification of Korea, that peace and justice might prevail
- women and other marginalized groups, and the inequalities they experience
- greater acceptance of immigrants that they might make a positive contribution
- new hope and meaning for the young, amid pressures of competition and consumerism.

**The bulletins** are given in honor of and with gratitude to the Staff of Catonsville United Methodist Church by Joan & Jim Boone.

**Serving today:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Greeters:** Linda & David Heinmuller  
**Interpreter:** Sandy Brown  
**Lector:** Judy Loar  
**Steward:** Chris Kennedy

**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

**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!

**Wreaths arrived** at Baltimore National Cemetery. Thanks to the response since the last message, the number doubled and just over 8,000 wreaths have been placed on veteran's graves. Thank you for your support.

**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).

**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.

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

### **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.*



### ***Christmas Eve Services***

***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.**

## What Child Is This

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
(Refrain)
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
(Refrain)

## Love Came Down at Christmas

- 1 Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
- 2 Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;  
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
- 3 Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;  
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

## Sing We Now of Christmas

- 1 Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!  
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Refrain:

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

- 2 Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,  
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest." (Refrain)
- 3 In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,  
seated by the manger, watching the holy child. (Refrain)
- 4 From the eastern country came the kings afar,  
bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star. (Refrain)
- 5 Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;  
there was never a stable so like paradise. (Refrain)