

# *Celebration of Worship*

*Sunday, December 31, 2023*

*10:00 a.m.*

*\*Indicates the Congregation is asked to stand*

## *First Sunday of Christmas*

*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**

*Joy to the World*

Christopher Uehlein

**\*Opening Hymn – No. 246**

*Joy to the World*

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: As Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, we too gather in God's house, carrying the joy of Christmas in our hearts.

People: **We come bringing our praise and thanksgiving, celebrating the gift of the Christ Child.**

Leader: Simeon and Anna recognized the Messiah and rejoiced. May our eyes be opened to see God's salvation in our midst.

People: **In faith, we seek the Lord's presence, ready to witness His glory in our lives.**

Leader: As Mary and Joseph marveled at what was spoken about Jesus, let us too marvel.

People: **With hearts full of wonder, we welcome the hope that Jesus brings to us all.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

**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 Announcements**

**Morning Prayer**

**God of glory,  
you have given us a new name and robed us in salvation.  
May we like Anna find our home in your presence,  
and like Simeon recognize Jesus as the Christ,  
so that, in joy and thanksgiving at becoming your children,  
we may join with all creation to sing your praise. Amen.**

**Quiet Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

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

**Offertory**                      *Once in Royal David's City*                      Charles Callahan

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

**\*Hymn of Preparation – No. 250**                      *Once in Royal David's City*

**\*Gospel Reading**                      Luke 2:22-40 (Pew Bible p. 830)

**Sermon**                      *Faith Like Simeon and Anna*                      Rev. David Jacobson

**\*Closing Hymn – No. 245**                      *The First Noel*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*                      Christopher Uehlein

*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.*

**Streaming Permissions for 10:00 Service**

Joy to the World (ANTIOCH) - organ  
Music - ©2001 Augsburg Fortress Publishers  
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Prelude on Once in Royal David's City  
Music - ©1990 Morning Star Music Publishers / Birnamwood Publications  
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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (MENDELSSOHN) - organ  
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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)*

*Rev. David Jacobson - Lead Pastor (443-840-9840 or [david@catonsvilleumc.org](mailto:david@catonsvilleumc.org))*

*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 31<sup>st</sup>:**

Janice Arcieri

Brenda Sutton

Kathy

Debbie Hobbs Klar

Greg Martin

Roger Atkinson

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

*A Memorial Service is planned for January.*

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

*A Memorial Service will be held on January 4.*

This week we pray for: ***Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine***

### **We are thankful for:**

- lands and monuments sacred in the origins of Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- those who unceasingly work for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land
- the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel
- those who continue to welcome the multitudes of refugees in their lands.

### **We pray for:**

- ending the violence racking this region, that the people might live together in peace, security and respect for each other
- those who have grown weary and disillusioned in searching for solutions
- an end to religious differences being exploited to perpetuate conflict and further displacement of people
- political leaders who will courageously bring about justice and reconciliation for the sake of all.

### **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 31, 2023 – January 6, 2024**

### **Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Swahili Service, SH  
1:30 p.m. A.A., 206

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

### **Tuesday**

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

### **Wednesday**

11:30 a.m. Warm Welcome Lunch, SH  
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawls, Library  
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, SH  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Leaders, 206  
7:00 p.m. Bible Study, 211

### **Thursday**

1:00 p.m. Memorial Service  
4:30 p.m. Brownies 178, SR  
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 1640, SR  
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 2499, 305  
7:00 p.m. Square Dance, SH  
7:00 p.m. Grief Group, Library  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, 209

### **Friday**

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

### **Saturday**

8:00 a.m. Methodist Girls  
8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, 211  
9:00 a.m. Ballroom Dance, SH  
12:00 p.m. AA, 208  
1:00 p.m. Accordion Club, 211

**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:** Mary & John Owen  
**Interpreter:** Diane Will  
**Lector:** Glenda Henkel  
**Steward:** Samantha Shepherd

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

**Christmas Blessings** to You & Your Loved Ones during this Holy Christmas Season. 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).

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

**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).

**Communion stewards needed.** CUMC needs volunteers to prepare communion elements on the third Sunday of each month. If you are willing to serve at least once a quarter, please contact Pastor David.

**Have you ever wondered** what’s happening in the balcony during the 10 am Worship Service? The Stream Team is producing the livestream which is viewed by worshippers who can’t attend in person. If you’d like to see how it happens, feel free to come up and watch. For more info, contact Chuck Gehrman at [chuckg201@gmail.com](mailto:chuckg201@gmail.com).

**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.

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## Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day, like us he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

### **The First Noel**

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
(Refrain)
- 3 And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]
- 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]
- 5 Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]