Prelude: “Be Thou My Vision”

Call to Worship (Responsive)
If you are weak and in need of strength,
   if you are feeling fragile, or vulnerable,
know that you are welcome here,
know that Christ beckons you here,
know that you are loved here.
We come to worship like children,
   ready to rest in God’s arms.
Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn 664 (For those following at home, see page 8.)
   “Morning Has Broken”   BUNESSAN

Prayer of Adoration
God of grace,
   you have given us minds to know you
hearts to love you, and
voices to sing your praise.
Fill us with your Spirit,
   that we may celebrate your glory and
worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Confession
Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be first
   must be last of all and servant of all.”
Let us humble ourselves before God
   and confess our sins as individuals
and as a community.

*All who are able, please stand.
Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Holy God, we commit ourselves to service,
    but fail to have a servant’s heart.
We seek social status, not sacrifice.
We welcome worldly success,
    not the humble path of Christ.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us from the pressures of the world
    that keep us jockeying for position.
Help us be servants of all. Amen.

Declaration of Forgivness
The mercy of the Lord
    is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
    we are forgiven! Amen.

*Response of Prais: “Jesus Loves Me!”
Jesus love me! This I know,
    for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me!
    Yes, Jesus loves me!
    Yes, Jesus loves me!
    The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
    as he loved so long ago,
    taking children on his knee, saying,
    “Let them come to me.”
Yes...

*Passing of the Peace

Life in Community
The peace and joy of the Lord
    be with you and yours today.
Thank you for joining us for worship.
Other announcements....

*All who are able, please stand.
Children’s Message

Hymn 630 (See page 9.) “Fairest Lord Jesus”

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)
With a reverent sense of your presence
   and your Spirit’s gift of guidance,
we gratefully approach
your word today, Holy God.
Help us meditate on the message
   you intend for us and be open
to your life-giving truth. Amen.

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37

Message: Welcome the Child

Affirmation of Faith (Unison) From A Brief Statement of Faith, Book of Confessions, PCUSA
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
   preaching good news to the poor
   and release to the captives,
   teaching by word and deed
   and blessing the children,
   healing the sick and binding up
   the brokenhearted,
   eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
   and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
   Jesus was crucified,
   suffering the depths of human pain
   and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
   vindicating his sinless life,
   breaking the power of sin and evil,
   delivering us from death to life eternal.

*All who are able, please stand.
Call to Offering
With glad and generous hearts,
   let us return to God a portion
of all that we have been given.
Let us present our tithes and
   offering to our God.

You may give online through our website, catonsvillepres.org.
If you wish to give in person, an offering plate is located
   near the sanctuary entrance. Feel welcome to place your
offering there at the end of the service.

In a time of silence now, let us remember
   and give thanks for God’s gifts to us this week:
   time, talent, money, family, relationships,
   friends, life itself.
Then ask yourself:
   where is the Spirit leading me this week
   to share my gifts through the work
of the church and the love of neighbor?

Musical Offering: “All Are Welcome”  
Marty Haugen

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)
Holy God, we gratefully present these gifts and
   entrust them to the power of Christ’s ministry.
May these gifts bear the Good News of the gospel
   to the least and the last.
May these gifts be signs of our welcome
   to the most vulnerable among us.
Bless our offerings so they might
   provide healing and hope. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer
Persistent and present God,
   deliver us from doubts that keep us from
turning to you more often in prayer.
Deliver us from catastrophizing thoughts,
   from assuming the worst,
from failing to recognize the power
you have given us to help and heal.

*All who are able, please stand.
Deliver us from the shame of past failures that keep us from risking vulnerability.
Deliver us from cynicism that keeps us from embracing each day as a new opportunity, a precious gift, another chance to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

God of peace, be with those who are fleeing violence, tyranny, and war.
Accompany those seeking safety and shelter.
Rescue the asylum-seekers and the unaccompanied children.
By the gift of your Holy Spirit, embolden us to cross borders of our own making—overcoming bias, seeking justice, offering welcome.

Creator God, in the midst of hurricanes, floods and devastating wildfires, empower us to care for our earth and one another.
Give comfort and courage to those who are suffering.
Guide world leaders toward smart and sustainable action that will care for your creation and not cause further harm.
Quench our warming globe’s thirst for justice.

Finally, God, we pray for the sick in need of healing: friends, neighbors and loved ones suffering from COVID-19 or other diseases.
Sit with those waiting for a diagnosis.
Comfort those living with pain.
Sustain those filled with worry.
Restore those living without hope.

Almighty God, we praise you for your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us,

*All who are able, please stand.*
your patience that has borne with us,
and your love that has redeemed us.
United as a family of faith and as the
Body of Christ, we lift these prayers up to you.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ 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.*

**Hymn 692** (See page 10.) “Spirit, Open My Heart”

**Benediction**

*Postlude: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

* * * * * *

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP**

Children are welcome in worship as part of the Whole Family of God. We are delighted they are here. For safety reasons we are not currently providing child care on Sunday mornings but fellowship hall is available for families to use. The service can be heard in the room, plus there’s plenty of space for active children. A parent may also take a child to the playground before, during, and after worship.

Children’s Bibles and books are available in the back of the sanctuary, along with clipboards, crayons, markers, and paper.

Information about our education ministries for the fall are in our September newsletter and can be found on our website, [www.catonsvillepres.org](http://www.catonsvillepres.org).

*All who are able, please stand.*
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 misinterpreted as inappropriate. Please reach out. Ask if there is a way that 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.

Participants

- Dorothy Boulton, associate pastor
- Kathy and Keith Glennan, ruling elder; video production
- Christopher Keenan, organist
- Greg Knauf, vocalist
- Kenneth E. Kovacs, pastor
- Melissa Lambdin, ruling elder/liturgist
- Vickie Lord, social media support
- Dottie Marshall, ruling elder, sanctuary set-up

Sources

- “Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-734388; CCLI Copyright License B 20481088 4/30/2021 + Streaming License B 20481071 4/30/2021”
Morning Has Broken

1 Morning has broken like the first morning; black-bird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun-lit from heaven, like the first dew-fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elevation; praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931, alt.
Text © David Higham Assoc., Ltd.
Music Arr. © 2012 Beverly A. Howard
630
Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
gar - b of
moon - light, and all the twinkle - ling, star - ry
Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
parer, who makes the wo - ful heart to sing.
parer, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

TEXT: Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; stanzas 1–3, trans. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850, alt.; CRUSADERS' HYMN
stanza 4, trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1875, alt.
MUSIC: Silesian folk melody; Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842
Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)

Refrain

_Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of
(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
(Dm) F/C Bb C7 Dm F/C Gm

living. As you love may I love, in receiving
(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
F Bb Gm7 F Bb F

and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.
(D) (G) (D) (G)
F Bb F Bb


1 God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love upon my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
C7 Dm F/C Bb C7

kind and tender. All my coldness and
goal, my story. In each thought, word, and
sister, brother. In the welcome of

(Bm)
Dm

(Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
Gm7 F Bb2 Bb

to Refrain

fear to your grace I now surrender.
deed, may my living bring you glory.
Christ, may we welcome one another.

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.