Prelude: Improvisation on FINLANDIA

Call to Worship (Responsive)
Let us focus on God’s presence.
   In the midst of a world
   where people hunger and thirst ...
Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.
   In the midst of a world
   where people are abused and oppressed ...
Come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.
   In the midst of a world
   filled with wars and rumors of war ...
Come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.
   In the midst of a world
   of spiritual emptiness ...
Come worship a God who gives life meaning.
   Come, let us worship the Lord,
   whose grace and love know no end!

*Hymn 307 (For those following at home, see page 9.)
   “God of Grace and God of Glory”

Prayer of Invocation, Confession, and Hope (Responsive)
God of creation,
   you created all of us in your image.
On this day we remember that throughout history there are those who have distorted your image, seeking power for themselves instead of submitting to your power, destroying relationships through violence, fear and oppression rather than seeking to build up relationships through love, peace and mercy.

*All who are able, please stand.
Silence

In this time of worship, as we have gathered to remember,
we call on you, creator of the earth,
to guide us into using the power you have given us
to create, not to destroy;
to love, not to hate;
to build instead of tearing down;
to reconcile instead of breaking apart;
to seek restorative justice instead of revenge.

Guide our hearts and minds to remember that we are created in your image to be creative beings in this world.
In the name of Jesus the Christ, who went to the cross instead of revenge, who walked this earth in peace instead of carrying weapons, and who in the resurrection comes and says “Peace be with you,” we pray that we might walk in his name. Amen.

*Response of Praise – Hymn 582 (See page 10.)
“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

*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….

Children’s Message

Hymn 378 (See page 11.) “We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)
Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
May we approach your Word today,  
Holy God, with the reverence  
and respect it deserves.  
Let us be intentional in our listening  
and focused in our minds as we hear  
your Word read and proclaimed today. Amen.

Scripture: Psalm 46

Message: Refuge and Strength

A Time for Lament: Remembering 9-11  
God, so much violence, so much pain,  
so much heartache.  
May our remembrances of this day  
instill within us a horror of war,  
And help us stand against the atrocities  
caused by terrorism and violence.  
As we grieve with those who still mourn,  
And share memories with those who cannot forget,  
May we be stirred by your love  
and compassion for all, especially  
for the vulnerable and displaced.  
As we remember those who bravely responded,  
And gave their lives to save others,  
May we draw strength  
from their selfless sacrifice,  
And be willing to go and do likewise  
for those still in harms way.  
As we stand with strangers  
who became neighbors that day,  
Sharing and caring with generosity  
and hospitality for people they did not know,  
May we remind ourselves of the call  
to be good Samaritans,  
And willingly reach out across race  
and culture to other victims of violence.  
So many in our world have lost loved ones  
to terrorism and war,  
So many have been displaced  
from homes and country,
May their plight fill us with compassion,
   a longing for peace,
And the desire to seek for understanding
   and reconciliation.
Let us not be overcome by our fears and anxieties,
Which sometimes prompt us to turn
   from your kingdom ways,
Let us remember God’s faithfulness
   when we were lost and alone.
And learn to trust in God’s unfailing love
   for all the peoples of the earth.
Amen.

Silence

Lament for the Fallen: “Flowers of the Forest”
Scottish Folk Melody (c. 1615-1625)

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-16

Offering
Jesus said, “Freely you have received,
   freely give.”
Let us return to God the offerings
   of our life and labor.
Let us present our gifts to the Lord.

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: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”
Sebastian Temple
Prayer of Dedication (Unison)
Holy God, take these gifts and bless them
for good use to your glory.
May these tokens of our gratitude
be of service in blessing the poor,
feeding the hungry, clothing and
sheltering those struggling to survive.
Use these gifts to further Christ’s mission
and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer
Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, respected,
adored and glorified be the name of our
Holy God.
Words alone cannot adequately express our
praise and thanksgiving, Holy One.
May the words we pray honestly reflect
the desire and devotion of our hearts
and guide us to a strong and
right relationship with you.
In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for health and healing in the midst
of our continuing crisis.
Strengthen medical professionals who have
spent all of their reserves of endurance.
Encourage them when death prevails
despite their heroic efforts.
Grant them courage and confidence
in the face of never-ending trials.
Show us all signs of your healing grace.

As our nation marks 20 years since the
attacks of September 11, 2001, we pray
for a collective moment of pause.
Help us stop what we are doing, Holy God.
Help us set aside the stress and strain
of the everyday to honor the lives that were lost,
the families devastated, the first responders
who ran toward danger to help and save.
May the memory of this terrible and tragic day make us ever more motivated to work for peace across our world.
Help us to build cultural, global and interfaith bridges, pathways and partnerships of mutual care and understanding.
Merciful God, as we remember the pain of this tragic day, fill us with your peace that passes all understanding, fill us with the hope that your kingdom will come and your will be done.

Compassionate God, bind up the wounds of the suffering among us.
Provide help and hope for families facing eviction.
Provide safety and security for refugees and asylum seekers.
Provide justice for peoples and nations long oppressed.
Provide liberation for the dehumanized as well as for those who cooperate with dehumanizing practices.
Free us all, Holy God, by faith.

God of life, the burdens we carry are heavy and the road forward feels dreary and endless.
Turn our eyes to where your skies are full of promise, tune our hearts to your brave love, fill our souls with moral courage so we can find our purpose and our path in you.
United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ, we lift these prayers up to you, God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Finally, hear us 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 340 (See pages 12 & 13.) “This Is My Song”

* Benediction

Postlude: “When the Battle is Over”

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PAVILION DEDICATION
Following worship, please join us at the pavilion for the dedication.

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.

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
- Ed Kitlowski, piper
- Greg Knauf, vocalist
- Kenneth E. Kovacs, pastor
- Vickie Lord, social media support
- Dottie Marshall, ruling elder, sanctuary set-up
- Brad Peercy, ruling elder/liturgist

Sources

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God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory, on thy people
2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
3 Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils

pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring its sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in we deplore. Let the gift of thy salvation be our

bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

TEXT: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.  
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907
582  Glory to God, 
Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G)  (D) (G) (D)  (G)  (D) (Em) (D)
Bb  F  Bb  F  Bb  F  Gm  F

1  Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
2  World without end, 7 without end. Amen.

(D)  (G) (C) (G)  (Em7)  (A7)
F  Bb  Fb  Bb  Gm7  C7

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
World without end, 7 without end. Amen.

(A7)  (D)  (F#) (Bm)
C7  F  A  Dm

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,  
World without end, 7 without end. Amen.

(Bm7)  (D)  (Bdim7)  (Em7)  (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7  F  Ddim7  Gm7  Fm  C7  F

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom 378

1 We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
2 Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start?
3 When wars of desolation and hate come to an end,
4 That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way,

in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh,
We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart.
when nation meets with nation and calls the other “friend,”
to share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God’s new-born day.

when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike;
Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home:
still peace in all its fullness will only have begun:
The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains,

a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.
we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.
shalom for all creation begins with justice done.
to bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6–9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its “little child” with one born at Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer’s sister, his first piano teacher.

TEXT: Kathleen R. Moore, 2010
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983
Text © 2010 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)
Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company
This Is My Song

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;

2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.

3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.
This Is My Song – page 2

but other hearts in other lands are beating,
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.