



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

January 14, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship

******indicates to stand as you are able.

Prelude

This Little Light of Mine

arr. M. Hayes

Psalm 27: 1: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?*

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!"
(words are from a traditional African-American spiritual; music is attributed to H. Loes; public domain)

(this piano solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 2011)

Introit

Surely the Presence of the Lord

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

****Call to Worship**

Kofi Akuoko

L: The one who calls you together this day yearns for each of you and for all people to hear and be blessed.

P: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.

L: Blessed is the One who comes bringing trustworthy words for the healing of the world.

P: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.

L: Let us worship God!

****Hymn – 395**

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

****Silent Prayer of Confession**

****Common Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, you see into each of us and know us fully as creatures in need of your constant care. We confess that we have neither heard your word nor followed your will. We have failed our nation, neighbors, families, friends, and ourselves. Give us ears to hear your wisdom. Lead us to honesty and faith so that we may begin again with renewed strength; in Jesus' name. Amen.

****Assurance of Pardon**

L: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel...

P: ...in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

****Response -187**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

Moment with Children

**Please note that any children who come forward for the moment with children will likely be seen on the worship livestream on Facebook*

*Children ages preschool—third grade dismissed to Sunday Experience
Please see the following page for special instructions*

Word in Music

Shed a Little Light
Scott Hoffman, soloist

by James Taylor; arr. G. Jasperse

Matthew 5: 16: In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Chorus: "Shed a little light, oh Lord, so that we can see. Just a little light, oh Lord. Wanna stand it on up, stand it on up, oh Lord. Wanna walk it on down. Shed a little light, oh Lord."

(Country Road Music, Inc. 1991; this arrangement: Alfred Music Publishing Co., 2013)

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
John 1: 43-51

Emma Gallagher

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Out of Nazareth

Rev. Scott Hoffman

****Hymn - 726**

Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)

Invitation to Offering

There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!

Offertory

Prelude from *Celebrate Life* by Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red
Psalm 118: 24: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*
(this organ solo: Broadman Press 1972/Van Ness Press, Inc., 1989)

**Doxology - 711

Lord of All Good
Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to your will.

Prayers of Thanksgiving with The Lord's Prayer (using "debts")

**Hymn - 702

Christ Be Beside Me

**Benediction

Postlude

Postlude from *Celebrate Life* by Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red
2 Corinthians 13:14: *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

(Broadman Press 1972/Van Ness Press, Inc., 1989)

Thank you to Jeff Bruce and John Kim for providing audio support this week!
Thank you to Rachael Bis for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

Church Office Hours

The church office is closed this week Monday - Friday.

Star Words

In 2020, we began a new tradition at CMPC of receiving star words for Epiphany. Epiphany, celebrated on January 6, marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas and the visit of the Magi recorded in Matthew 2:1-12. The wise men followed a bright heavenly body (usually represented by a star) and traveled great distances to offer their gifts to the newborn Christ-child. The Magi received God's gift, and then offered their gifts to God. We are also seeking Jesus, trusting that God uses many signs (or stars) to guide us closer to the Divine presence.

We are handing out star words after worship today. Place your star where you will see it daily and reflect on the word for the coming year. You are invited to ponder the significance this word might have in your life, and how God might be speaking to you through that simple message. A word that seems unclear at the beginning may gain new meaning as the year goes on.



Bingo Night

The LOGOS high school FISH Youth will be hosting a Bingo Night in Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 26. The event will be for all ages (adulthood to childhood) and light refreshments will be served. The youth will also be available to entertain those children who do not want to play. More details to follow. Hope to see you there!



Want more CMPC news and events? Subscribe to our weekly Friday E-News at:
www.cmpcusa.org/newsletters

Let's Dive into a Friendship with God!

We are excited for Vacation Bible School at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church this summer! Join us as we dive below the surface for an amazing underwater adventure where we will experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Mark your calendars for the week of July 8th. Registration will open for CMPC members on Tuesday, January 23rd and the general public on Tuesday, January 30th.

To make this a successful week for the kids of Christ Memorial and the community we need volunteers. Please consider participating in this great church event. We need adult leaders and teen leaders (middle school, high school and college). For adult leaders, registration is free for the second child registered. Please reach out to Laura Jean Graybeal (vbs@cmpecusa.org) if you are interested in helping!



New Blog Content

Please check our website to read a post written by Elder and Chair of The Mission and Local Outreach Committee, Philip Davies, who has a unique perspective on the current conflict and humanitarian crisis in Gaza from his many years of work in the Middle East.

2024 Giving Envelopes are Available

If you would like a box of weekly giving envelopes for 2024, please contact Joyce Danzig at joyce.danzig@gmail.com to request a box.

2023 Contribution Statements

The year-end contribution statements will be available for you to download from CMPC Bridge between February 1, 2024 – April 30, 2024. Beginning February 1st, the "2023 Contribution Statement" button will appear on your giving record to allow you to download or print your statement.

As a reminder, you can view your giving history at any time in CMPC Bridge.

If you would prefer to have your 2023 contribution statement mailed or emailed to you in February, please send your request to Joyce Danzig, Assistant Treasurer, at joyce.danzig@gmail.com.

Window on Mission

This update covers September through December 2023.

In an effort to keep the congregation better informed about its work, the Mission and Local Outreach Committee has decided to share periodic informational updates. In addition to increasing awareness about what it is doing in the community, nationally, and globally on the congregation's behalf, our hope is these communications will also encourage participation in hands-on mission opportunities. Here is a summary of activity from September to December.

Local Mission. On the fourth Monday of every month, CMPC volunteers provide and serve hot dinners at **Grassroots Day Resource Center** in Laurel for the homeless in our community. The number of persons using the Center continues to grow, as does the need for food. This is an ongoing mission that welcomes new volunteers. Suzy Crabb is the point person for this mission. Susan.crabb@verizon.net

The committee made donations to support the **Howard County Food Bank** which is run by the Community Action Council of Howard County <https://cac-hc.org/>, **Columbia Community Care** <https://columbiacommunitycare.org/>, **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Home of Our Own Howard**, and **Helping Up Mission** in Baltimore. These programs are consistent with the committee's focus on addressing homelessness in our community and demonstrate the increasing need for a growing number of vulnerable families.

The last week in December, many CMPC volunteers participated in the **Cold Weather Shelter** (CWS) by supplying breakfast, lunch, and dinner to 30 guests at the Extended Stay Motel. Thanks to Todd Stubbs for his leadership again this year and to Grassroots for organizing the CWS.

National Mission. The committee continues to support the mission of **Dustin and Holly Garner at OneEleven Ministries** in Kansas City where they are preparing interns to sing and pray the Bible and share God's goodness through evangelistic outreaches. It also supported the rebuilding of a fire-damaged house in Mississippi under the auspices of **Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders** and the volunteer work of Peter Berlowitz.

Global Mission. In response to the Israel-Hamas war, the committee made donations to **Ahli Arab Hospital** and to support relief efforts of **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** to care for communities adversely affected by the crisis. Previously, the committee made a donation to **United Palestine Appeal** for their ongoing humanitarian work in Gaza.

Of course, this would not be possible without the generous support of our congregation for which we are very grateful and appreciative.



NEWS from the CMPC Hunger Task Force

The CMPC Hunger Task Force formed last August 2023 in response to the number one finding of the Ad-Hoc Visioning Committee Report (March 2023):that **CMPC establish a ministry to reduce food insecurity and hunger in the local community.**

Since that time, the CMPC Hunger Task Force has been meeting regularly to educate ourselves on the complex issues surrounding food insecurity in Howard County. We want to keep the congregation informed on our findings, share what we've learned and eventually form an action plan. **Please watch this space** for regular announcements about our progress and to learn with us about food insecurity and hunger.

What is Food Insecurity?

Definition: access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life

This is not achieved by many because of economics and other issues. Many can't afford adequate food and must choose between that and other expenses including

- Housing
- Medical care
- Child care
- Lack of access to transportation

ALICE = Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

The Maryland Food Bank has adopted the ALICE approach to determining a comprehensive understanding of food insecurity. This approach factors in the local costs of food, transportation, housing, health care, and childcare at a bare minimum "survival" level. This shows that **food insecurity occurs among both the employed and the unemployed.**

(Maryland Food Bank: Food Insecurity in MD 7/22)

395 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part, Light of Light, from

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed, till your Spir - it breaks our night,
 God pro - ceed - ing. Touch our lips and ears and heart;

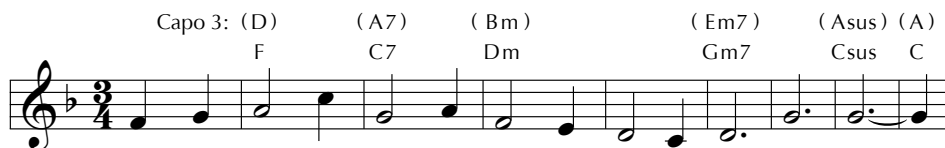
and in glow - ing faith be near you. By your gos - pel
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your

true and ho - ly, teach us, Lord, to love you sole - ly.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 church now rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

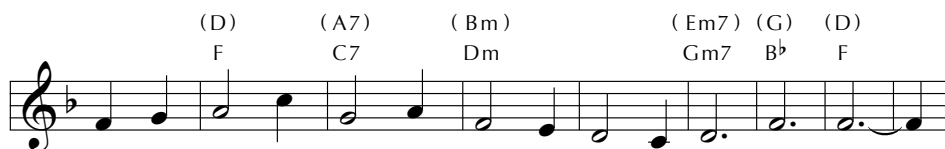
Originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, this hymn assumes a congregation that assembles regularly, and it needs to be placed near the beginning rather than the end of worship. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

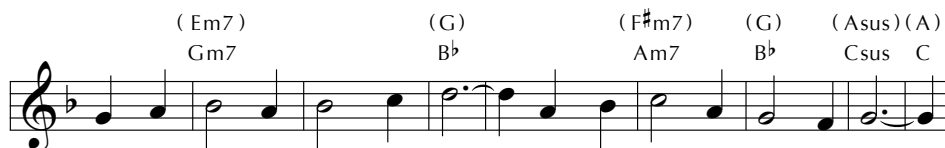
The Summons



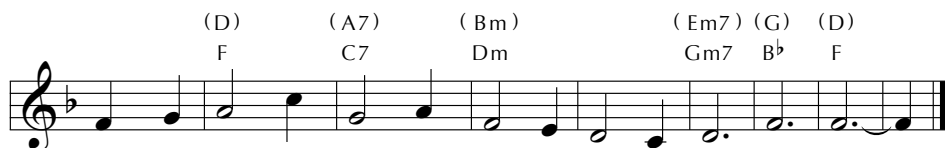
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

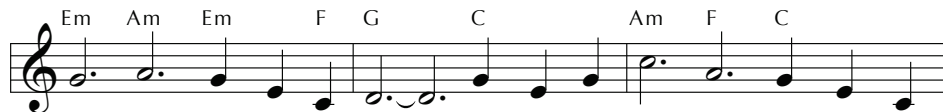
The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

Christ Be Beside Me

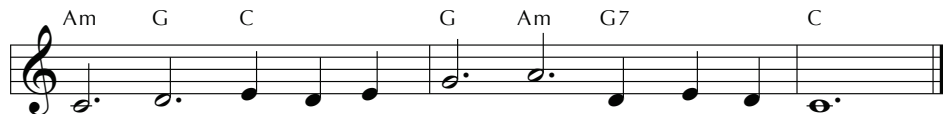
702



1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -
 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -
 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on



hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -
 round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my
 all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.
 sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.
 see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

This text adapts part of a traditional Irish prayer associated with St. Patrick (see also no. 6). Such a prayer for protection is known as a *lorica*, from a Latin word for “breastplate” or “armor.” It is set to a Gaelic melody that gained wide popularity in the 1970s.