



CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

"Tomorrow's Song"

Olafur Arnalds

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

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

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you

****Call to Worship**

Liturgist Tiffany Carmean

L: Come, you who think you have it all figured out

P: We come to make room for God to speak.

L: Come, you who have faithfully followed Jesus for a long time.

P: We come to hear what new thing Jesus might call us to do.

L: Come, you who have been stopped in your tracks

P: We come to wait for the Lord.

L: Come, you who can only wonder what God will do next

P: We come to seek the One whose light still shines.

****Hymn -673 – v. 1, 3**

"Jesus, Light of Joy"

Resurrection Prayer

L: Risen One, your light shines around us and we hardly know where to look.

Your voice echoes and we still strain to hear.

You are alive and out in the world

not just in the places we keep you but out on the road and even out beyond our borders.

P: You call us by name and set us about your work in the world.

L: When your call starts with a stop sign and your word changes everything about our lives,
help us to recognize you and to open our hearts to receive.

L: When your call comes through our everyday faith and asks us to take it to the next level,
help us to recognize you and to open our hearts to receive.

L: When your call sends us to situations we'd rather avoid and asks us to play a part in your vision

P: help us to recognize you and to open our hearts to receive.

All: Raise us up with you to walk in new life that loves, blesses, and transforms the world.

Shine your light in us and through us, that we may trust your grace and follow your Way.

We ask in the name of our risen Lord Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Assurance of our Hope in Christ

L: Hear this Good News: Through Christ, we encounter new and unexpected ways of bringing God's transforming love for the world into being, and are invited to participate in that joyful work.

All: Trusting in the hope Christ offers, we go forward into new life. Thanks be to God!

****Response - # 240 Refrain, v.4, Refrain "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"**

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

**4. Come let us praise the living God
Joyfully sing to our Savior (Refrain)**

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Word in Music

"This Little Light of Mine"

J Raney
Hope Pub., 2001

Time for All God's Children

Chad Board

**Please note that any children who come forward to the chancel will likely be seen on the worship livestream.
Children ages preschool—third grade are dismissed to Sunday Experience.*

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist Tiffany Carmean

Psalm Text for the Day

John 12:37-45, CEB

Gospel Text for the Day

Acts 9:1-19a, CEB

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God

Hymn of Response - - # 451- "Open My Eyes, that I May See"

Prayers of the People Concluding with the Lord's Prayer, Hymnal, p. 35

EUCCHARIST—OUR GRATITUDE AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist Tiffany Carmean

Offertory

"I Will Rise"

by C Tomlin, L. Giglio, J. Reeves, and M. Maher

We invite you to use the time of the Offertory to reflect and to pray silently, offering thanks for God's goodness, and commitment of ourselves for declaring that the God who creates also re-creates. making all things new.

**Doxology- #232 v.4

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication and Discipleship

Liturgist Tiffany Carmean

SENDING

Hymn – # 662 v. 1,3

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"
sung to tune #684

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

Traditional - Every time I feel the spirit

Art Attribution

Conversion de san Pablo, Oriol Vaz-Romero Trueb, Barcelona, 2018

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!

Thank you to Neil Danzig for providing audio support this week!

Thank you to n for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Texts for the Week

Acts 9:1-19a (CEB)

Meanwhile, Saul was still spewing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest, ² seeking letters to the synagogues in Damascus. If he found persons who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, these letters would authorize him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?"

⁵ Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

"I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply. ⁶ "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do."

⁷ Those traveling with him stood there speechless; they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ After they picked Saul up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind and neither ate nor drank anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a certain disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He answered, "Yes, Lord."

¹¹ The Lord instructed him, "Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias enter and put his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ Ananias countered, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He's here with authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone who calls on your name."

¹⁵ The Lord replied, "Go! This man is the agent I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

¹⁷ Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Instantly, flakes fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ After eating, he regained his strength.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days.

John 12:37-45

³⁷ Jesus had done many miraculous signs before the people, but they didn't believe in him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of the prophet Isaiah:

*Lord, who has believed through our message?
To whom is the arm of the Lord fully
revealed?*

³⁹ Isaiah explains why they couldn't believe:

*⁴⁰ He made their eyes blind
and closed their minds
so that they might not see with their eyes,
understand with their minds,
and turn their lives around—
and I would heal them.*

⁴¹ Isaiah said these things because he saw Jesus' glory; he spoke about Jesus. ⁴² Even so, many leaders believed in him, but they wouldn't acknowledge their faith because they feared that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. ⁴³ They believed, but they loved human praise more than God's glory.

⁴⁴ Jesus shouted, "Whoever believes in me doesn't believe in me but in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵ Whoever sees me sees the one who sent me."

Rebuilding Together Howard County

Once again, the CMPC Mission Committee and CMPC members are partnering with Rebuilding Together to provide repairs to homes of at-need families in Howard County. This year's date is Saturday, April 25th. There will likely be a "pre-build" day on the 24th to wash and prepare for exterior painting. The primary tasks are deck repair, securing railings, fixing doors & windows, and resurfacing a basement ceiling.

House Captains this year are Wes Millard (wesmillard@gmail.com) and Pete Berlowitz (pberlowitz@verizon.net). Please sign up with them via email or in person. Youth ages 14 and up are also welcomed to participate with parental consent. Please prayerfully consider participating in this rewarding and joyful event!

CMPC Step Challenge Update: Halfway There and Still Stepping Strong!

CMPC walkers, you've been busy! We are officially about halfway through the Step Challenge, and together we have logged nearly **4 million steps**. That's roughly **1,900 miles**—which means if we had started walking from church and kept heading down the road, we could already be soaking up the sunshine in **Miami**, enjoying the music in **New Orleans**, or even making our way toward **Denver!**

And if this group keeps up the current pace, **Dallas** or even **Albuquerque** could be within reach sometime next week. Not bad for a group whose main transportation is sneakers!

At the front of the pack, **Chip Garner** continues to wear the gold medal with an impressive **280,000+ steps**. **Tiffany Carmean** is holding strong in **silver with 197,000 steps**, while **Tom Trodden** is hanging on to **bronze** with close to **190,000** steps. But the race isn't over yet—Bob Clemens and Susan Crabb are definitely on the hunt for a podium spot, so stay tuned!

This past week also saw some serious movement from **Zoe Kim, Bob Clemens, Carrie Jenkins, and John Sullivan**, each racking up between 80,000 and 100,000 steps. That's a whole lot of walking!

While it's fun to watch the leaderboard shuffle and celebrate big numbers, the real victory in this challenge is competing with yourself. Every walk, every extra lap, every decision to keep moving brings you one step closer to the personal daily goal you set at the beginning of this challenge.

We are super proud of this CMPC crew. Keep cheering each other on, keep those feet moving, and let's see just how far our steps can take us in the second half of the challenge!



VBS

We are less than 3 months away from VBS week at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church! We are excited to share that we will be welcoming over 115 children into the building to Explore the Nature of God in Rainforest Falls! For this week to be a successful outreach at CMPC we need volunteers like you!

Here are some of the areas that we need help!

- * Kitchen Crew - adult volunteers working together each morning to prepare snacks for the children
- * Preschool Bible Teacher - adult volunteer that will lead the prepared Bible lesson for the 20 preschool children registered once each morning
- * Assistant in Elementary Sticky Scriptures - adult volunteer that will support the lead teacher run a station that includes a small video and discussion each morning
- * Assistant in Preschool Recreation - adult volunteer that will support the lead teacher run a station that includes outdoor fun games each morning
- * Assistant in Elementary Bible - adult volunteer that will support the lead teacher run a station that shares the highlighted Bible story each morning
- * Youth Leaders - youth volunteers ages middle school - high school that will travel with the crews of children around the stations and you will receive service hours

Any questions about these amazing volunteer opportunities? Reach out to Laura Jean Graybeal or Heather Gallagher at vbs@cmpcusa.org

Adult Bible Studies

There are currently two Bible studies being offered and led by Kathy Koch. The Monday Zoom is now meeting at 7 pm on the third and fourth weeks of the month. The group started a study about hope which should take them through the rest of the school year.

Bible Basics meets Tuesdays at 11 am during the school year. The group is currently discussing the New Testament letters.

Please contact Kathy at KathrynKoch79@gmail.com for more information about either class. You can also text Kathy at 301-643-6861.



Earth Sunday

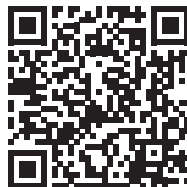
Next Sunday, April 26, Christ Memorial will hold a special Earth Sunday service and celebration. Much of the service will be held outside (weather permitting) so please dress accordingly and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Worship will start in Fellowship Hall , and then move to the front sidewalk area for the first of 6 "Property Pilgrimage" stops. Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to walk the perimeter of the South Side of the property before returning to the parking lot for the final 3 stations, where those electing not to walk the lawn portion will re-join us.

Please join us! We are doing our best to make this as inclusive as possible and look forward to seeing you there (in comfortable shoes)!

Spring Clean Up

Please join us as we complete our annual Spring clean-up day and get the church building and grounds ready for the rest of the year's worship, special events, and fellowship. This is a rain or shine event. Donuts and coffee will be provided in the morning with a pizza lunch. Please sign up below for a specific task or general helping at the very bottom. For the specific tasks you will see suggested tools or supplies for completing the task which would be helpful for you to bring since the church has limited tools and materials for doing some of these tasks.



Who's Who in the Pews: An occasional feature from the Membership and Hospitality Committee to help worshipers get to know one another.

John and Lindsey Kim

Music brought John and Lindsey Kim together as freshmen in the marching band at a high school in Salisbury, Md. John played trumpet and later French horn, and Lindsey played flute and piccolo. They eventually reconnected and got married in 2007.

CMPC members since April 2013, the couple live in Ellicott City with their two children who also have musical gifts. Zoe, who joined the church with the confirmation class in March, is 14 and plays the flute; and Evan is 13 and plays French horn. The kids have shared their talents during worship service, as has Lindsey.

John can often be found working at the sound board on Sundays and "being bossed around by Neil!" John grew up in Salisbury and has lived in Howard County since graduating from the University of Maryland, College Park. He has been a federal government employee for more than 20 years and currently works as a policy analyst for the Defense Counter Intelligence Security Agency.

John just embarked on his second consecutive three-year term on the Session, where he continues to serve as Personnel Committee Chair. He has previously served the church as a member of the Membership and Hospitality Committee and the Christian Education Committee, and has assisted at LOGOS.

Lindsey, who has previously lived in Pennsylvania, Salisbury and Northern Virginia, has worked as a Howard County elementary school teacher for 19 years, after teaching in Virginia for four years. During her career she spent 10 years teaching 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th grade, then nine years as an English Language Development teacher. She currently works at Elkridge and Bollman Bridge elementary schools where she coaches teachers who work with students who are learning English.



John's main interests are being active and involved with their family, especially Zoe's musical ensembles and Evan's baseball team. He also enjoys spending time with friends and calls himself a fan of visiting "a brewery or four every now and then."

Lindsey enjoys reading and often listens to audiobooks on her commute. She considers herself a "multi-crafter" because she likes to quilt, embroider, and use her Silhouette dye cut machine to create themed t-shirts for baseball families, wooden wall signs, and onesies for friends' babies. Zoe recently convinced her they should join a flute choir together and she says that has been "a lovely experience."

The couple's favorite CMPC memories include going on the Mars Hill mission trips to North Carolina. Lindsey has enjoyed volunteering at LOGOS as a choir helper and bells helper, and assisting with costumes for the annual pageant and musical. Participating in the "silly games" during LOGOS family time and playing flute in the Christmas cantata rank high for her as well.

John's favorite CMPC memories include washing and drying dishes in the "old kitchen/sauna" with Kathleen Hong and other LOGOS volunteers. He said that previously being a part of FISH provided him an opportunity to get to know a lot of special high schoolers who are now young adults and to become friends with many of the adult leaders.

673

Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451

1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.

Place in my hands the won-der - ful key that shall un - clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil - dren

set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy

will to see. O-pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - panied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re-turn till thy mer-cy's beams I see;
fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine; scat-ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.