

Use the following worship guide as we gather on Sunday morning via Zoom. Simply click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2398495210>

\*\* Announcements are at the end of this order of worship. \*\*

The Service of Worship

## First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

Baltimore, Maryland

Sixth Sunday in Eastertide – Year B

May 5, 2024

10:30 a.m.



### Preparation for Worship

Use the art and the following poem to make the transition from getting here to being here.

more than grandpa's white gown yellowed by age  
more than candle and towel  
more than friends gathered  
words spoken  
water poured  
or promises spoken aloud  
baptism is more  
it is  
sky parted peace  
with heaven and earth pregnant-paused  
to hear God speak the words

You are mine!

Prelude

*Dona Nobis* Nancy Flandermeyer Chronister, Director of Music  
from the Sixteenth Mass by W. A. Mozart

Welcome

The Rev. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Lesson from the Psalms

*Psalms 98*

Kevin Adson, Liturgist

Call to Worship

~congregation reads bold print~

We come, with songs of joy and praise to worship and celebrate God's great triumphs.

**"Joy to the world! ...let earth receive its king; let every heart prepare him room ..."**

We come, with songs of joy and thankfulness to revere and honour our Almighty God.

**"Joy to the earth! ...The Saviour reigns; let all our songs..." bring praises to our King.**

We come, with songs of joy and awed praise to worship the God of all truth and grace — who is the Source of all wisdom and holy power; and who reigns throughout all eternity.

**"Joy to the world! "...Joy to the earth..!" Joy to all creation on earth, to all beyond its vast bounds, and to all of humanity; as God shows to all creation the wonders of God's love. Amen.**

Hymn for Praise NCH #50 *I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty*  
~ as you are able, please stand ~

ST. PETERSBURG

### Our Joys and Concerns

*Remember these known joys and concerns:*

- Peace in our world
- Jason Skerik and Kevin Adson as they join this church
- John Henson's friend, Bob Fetzer, after the death of his mother.
- Harry Claridge – awaiting surgery
- Rachel Ezell's friend James in ICU
- Beth Wheat's sister, Pat, awaiting more surgery
- The Flandermyers – Nancy Chronister's parents
- Doug and Anthony
- Laura Weaver Haas's mother
- Bryce – Jen Langdon's nephew

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sisson

A Story for All Ages

*All children are invited to come sit by the pastor for a brief time together.*

Scripture Lesson

*Acts 10:44-47; John 15:9-17*

Jason Skerik, Liturgist

Hymn for Baptism VU#442 *Wash Us, God, Your Sons and Daughters*

BEACH SPRING

*~ as you are able, please stand ~ see insert ~*

The Message

*"You Did Not Choose Me, but I Chose You"*

Rev. Sisson

Welcoming New Members and Baptism

Jason Skerik and Kevin Adson

Sacrament of Baptism

The Anthem

*Table of Unity, Bread of Community*

Choir

by Amanda Udis-Kessler

The Welcoming Table

The Invitation

*We believe that the invitation to this table comes not from any church or individual, but from Jesus. We therefore invite in Christ's name all who hear that invitation and who wish to respond by sharing the bread and the cup. In the spirit of inclusion – the cup is alcohol-free; and there is a gluten-free option for bread.*

Breaking of the Bread

Sharing of the Cup

Making an Offering

Please consider making an offering through on-line giving, or mail your check to the church address. You can find information on our church web page: [first-ststephens.org](http://first-ststephens.org) You may also place your offering in the offering plate in the sanctuary. Or, you may use the QR Code that is at the end of the announcements.

Prayer of Dedication/offering

Take our gifts, Composing God, and weave a song of healing for the broken, of nourishment for the hungry, of hope for those who despair, and peace for those torn by violence. We sing our praises, as we offer our treasures, as well as our hearts, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn for Sending

NCH #402

*De Colores*

(see insert)

DE COLORES

*~ as you are able, please stand ~*

Benediction

Postlude

*Cielito Lindo*

Quirino Mendoza y Cortes (Mexico)

+ + + + +

Worship Resources are adapted from:  
Joan Stott  
Africana Worship  
Margaret Weis  
Thom Shuman

**Welcome!** We are glad you are here. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a visitor's card from the back of one of the chairs and place it in the offering plate or hand it to the pastor after the service. Please stay for coffee and conversation in the Gathering Room after the service.

The new gallery exhibit is by **Baltimore Sculptors**. There will be a **"Meet the Artist Reception" TODAY from noon to 2p.m.** Please plan to stay and welcome our guests to the church and gallery.

**Baby Shower for Lake and Sara Prescott** – next Saturday, May 11, 2-4:30p.m. at the church. *Everyone is welcomed!* Bring a children's book and a box of diapers. The Prescotts are registered at: [babylist.com/list/lakeandsaraprescott](http://babylist.com/list/lakeandsaraprescott). Please RSVP to Laurie McPhillips asap: 252-714-3868 or [JLMC1102@gmail.com](mailto:JLMC1102@gmail.com).

Please bring **sanitary products for "Changing the Cycles"** as we help end menstrual poverty.

**ACTC** is desperately asking for any non-perishable food items. The need has increased by 25% and they depend on volunteers to supply the food pantry. Items can be placed in the red wagon in the foyer, and are delivered weekly. For the month of May we will focus on bringing: **bottled water, canned vegetables, and pasta.**

**Calling All Talents!** Many thanks to our talented choir members and musicians who make music every Sunday! Their dedication to meaningful worship music is greatly appreciated, but as summer approaches they deserve a break! If you have a talent you would like to share for a service in June, July, or August please see Nancy Chronister or any choir member! Poetry, dance, instrumental or vocal music, or any other gift you have to offer would be welcome!

To Make an Offering Now



Church Staff

Kelly M. Sisson **Pastor** [fssuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:fssuccpastor@gmail.com) (410)832-3974  
Nancy Chronister **Director of Music** [nancyfc88@comcast.net](mailto:nancyfc88@comcast.net) (610)724-6096  
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**Church Office (410) 377-5224**

**WiFi Password: ONAcomma**

**Consistory for 2024**

Amanda Ajulu – President - [amandamajulu@yahoo.com](mailto:amandamajulu@yahoo.com)

Jen Langdon – Vice President - jenjele@gmail.com  
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Nancy Chronister – Member at Large - nancyfc88@comcast.net  
Kelly Sisson – Ex-Officio - fssuccpastor@gmail.com

## I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1757

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 I sing the praise of Love al - might - y, which shines re - vealed in  
 2 How lov - ing - kind you are, how gen - tle, how your heart reach - es  
 3 Se - cure my heart and all my be - ing, in you, my Sav - ior,  
 4 May my heart bear the deep im - pres - sion of love that Je - sus

Je - sus' face. I of - fer up all that de - lights me,  
 af - ter mine! My heart re - sponds in el - e - men - tal  
 cru - ci - fied. You gave your life to work my heal - ing,  
 shares with me, My life be - come a pure ex - pres - sion

all mean de - sires, each fond em - brace, Turn from my - self, in  
 sym - pa - thy, beat - ing per - fect time. This mu - tual love, this  
 bleed - ing for me, you groaned and died. Be - lov - ed Je - sus,  
 of all that Chris - tian love can be: Each word, each act, a

pure de - vo - tion, and ea - ger plunge in love's vast o - cean.  
 strong at - trac - tion, I know no oth - er sat - is - fac - tion,  
 my sal - va - tion, you have, through love, re - stored cre - a - tion.  
 bright re - flec - tion of joy in Love's own res - ur - rec - tion.

*Gerhard Tersteegen was an eighteenth-century hymnwriter and mystic, nurtured in the German Reformed Church. The four stanzas that comprise "Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe" were drawn from a longer poem and became popular in this form when published by Pastor Johannes Evangelist Gossner in his Choralbuch of 1825.*

Tune: ST. PETERSBURG 9.8.9.8.9.9.  
 Dimitri Bormiansky, 1825

# De colores

(Sing of Colors)

Mexican folk song  
 Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1995

A A7 D

1 De co - lo - res, de co - lo - res se vis - ten los  
 1 Sing of col - ors, sing of col - ors that o - ver the  
 2 Sing, re - joic - ing! Ev - ery crea - ture that breathes raise a

Em

cam - pos en la pri - ma - ve - ra. De co -  
 hills in pro - fu - sion are spring - ing; Sing of  
 song to the God of cre - a - tion. Sing, re -

A7 A9 Em7 A7(#11) A7

lo - res, de co - lo - res son los pa - ja - ri - tos que vie - nen de a -  
 col - ors of the birds that fly out - side my win - dow their can - ti - cles  
 joic - ing! Sing to God who so ear - nest - ly cares, who has of - fer - ed sal -

D D A7 D

fue - ra. De co - lo - res, de co -  
 sing - ing; Sing of col - ors, in the  
 va - tion. Sing the good news! Sing the

*This Mexican folk song is known by many Mexican-American churchgoers, and has also been popular among the United Farm Workers.*

Tune: DE COLORES  
 Mexican folk song  
 Arr. Alfredo Morales, F.S.C.

lo - res es el ar - co i - ris que ve - mos sa - lir, Y por  
rain-bow's bright col - ors God's prom - ise of hope we re - call; Sing of  
love of the Sav - ior re - flect - ing the col - ors of all. Man - y

e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co - lo - res me gus - tan a  
col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who cre - at - ed us  
col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that tell us God's love to re -

mí, Y por e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co -  
all. Sing of col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the  
call. Man - y col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that

lo - res me gus - tan a mí.  
God who cre - at - ed us all.  
tell us God's love to re - call.

# FAITH & DEMOCRACY 2024

## Campaign Organizing Meeting

May 7th  
6:30pm  
Online (via Zoom)

[RSVP HERE](#)

### AGENDA

Welcome

Faith & Democracy 2024 Campaign Review

Organize Your Local Church Faith & Democracy Team

Connecting with Your State/Regional Action Network

100% Voter Registration of Your Local Church

Voter Education Forum – White Christian Nationalism & the 2024 Elections

Working with our Partners (Center for Common Ground, Poor People's Campaign, etc.)

Open Discussion



*Justice & Witness Action Network -- a justice movement of local churches, clergy & justice leaders of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ building & organizing power to secure a just and compassionate world for all.*



Well for the Journey and Dementia Friendly  
Baltimore County Present...

# A NATURE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM SERIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARE PARTNERS

Monday, April 29 • 10 am-Noon  
Thursday, May 16 • 1:30-3:30 pm  
Saturday, June 22 • 10 am-Noon  
Saturday, July 6 • 10 am-Noon  
Friday, September 27 • 10 am-Noon  
Saturday, October 5th • 1:30-3:30 pm

**FREE  
(RSVP REQUIRED)**

All programming will take place at:  
Well for the Journey  
120 W. Seminary Avenue • Lutherville, MD 21093  
(refreshments will be served)

**Learn more and sign up here:  
[wellforthejourney.org](http://wellforthejourney.org)**



This program is sponsored by Well For The Journey and is a partnership with Dementia Friendly Baltimore County.



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Historic Preservation**

## **LGBTQ PRESERVATION:**

FOCUSING ON THE PRESENT WHILE  
HONORING THE PAST

**WED. 5/15 • 6 P.M. ET**



August Bonus Camp Location  
First & St. Stephens Church  
6915 York Rd  
21212



Be a  
TPW Kid!