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 Flandermyer Chronister, Director of Music

from the Sixteenth Mass by W. A. Mozart

Welcome

Psalm 98

Kevin Adson, Liturgist

The Rev. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship

Lesson from the Psalms

~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.

NCH #50 I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty Hymn for Praise

~ as you are able, please stand ~

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

ST. PETERSBURG

~ 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 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. Please RSVP to Laurie McPhillips asap: 252-714-3868 or 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

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Nancy Chronister – Member at Large - nancyfc88@comcast.net
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I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

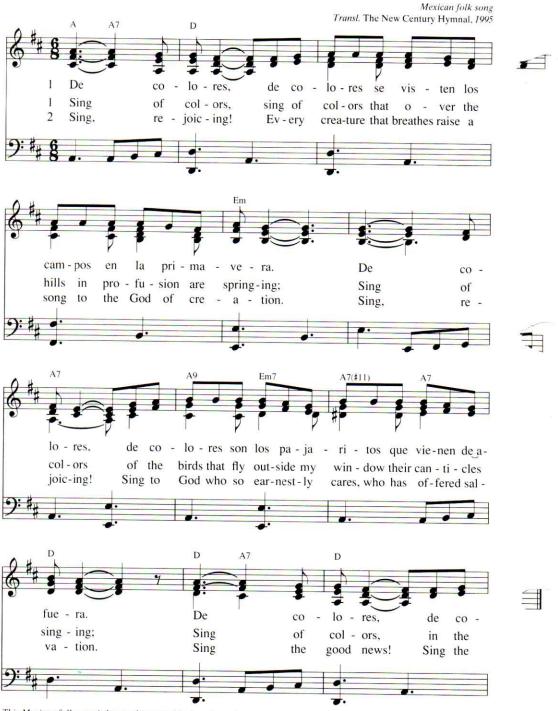


Gerhard Tersteegen was an eighteenth-century hymnwriter and mystic, nurtured in the German Reformed Church. The four stanzas that comprise "Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe" were drawn from a longer poem and became popular in this form when published by Pastor Johannes Evangelist Gossner in his Choralbuch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

Tune: ST. PETERSBURG 9.8.9.8.9.9.

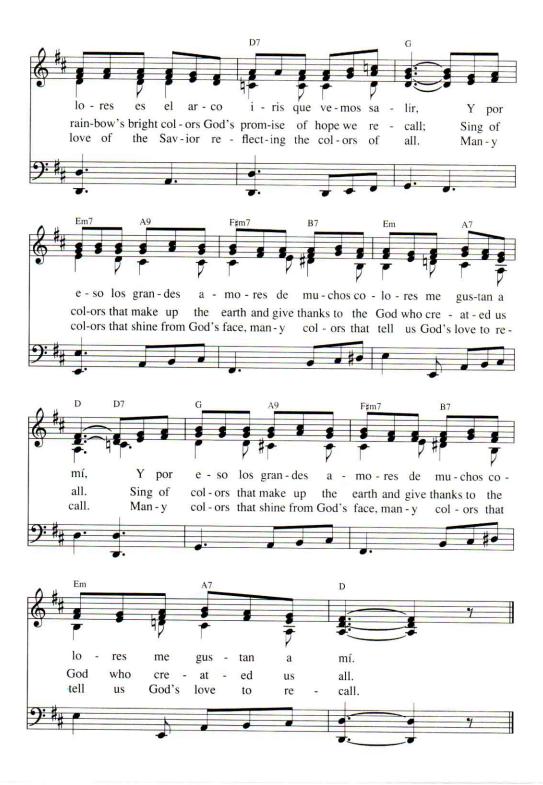
Dimitri Bortniansky, 1825

De colores (Sing of Colors)



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.



FAITH & DEMOCRACY 2024

Campaign Organizing Meeting

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



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





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



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













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LGBTQ PRESERVATION:

FOCUSING ON THE PRESENT WHILE HONORING THE PAST

WED. 5/15 • 6 P.M. ET

