

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
Advent 1 – Year C – “Hope”

December 1, 2024

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

Nancy Flandermyer Chronister, Director of Music

Conditio Alme Siderum
by Gerald Near

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Lighting of the HOPE candle

~ congregation reads **bold print** ~

God of hope,
all of us are affected by HIV and AIDS.
At this time of Advent hope,
as we prepare for the coming of your Son into this world, we give thanks for signs of hope.
For growing understanding,
for medical advances,
for changing attitudes,
for greater awareness and concern in your church.
God hear us, **God graciously hear us.**

Candle Song

(sung to the tune 'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent')

words by Rev. John Kupar

**As we light the candle of hope, We await the Christ yet to come.
Hoping for a world of shalom, One where we are closely known.
Christ come to us, upon our Earth do dwell, May we carry Hope close to home.**

Hymn for World AIDS Day

Hidden, Yet Hurting

(see insert)

STREETS OF LAREDO

Words by Andrew Pratt

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Peace in our world, our country, our community
- Those impacted by Hurricanes Milton and Helene
- Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister, recovering from knee surgery
- Laura Weaver-Haas' health
- Jen's friend, Andrew and his family
- Laura Weaver Haas's mother
- Bryce – Jen Langdon's nephew

If you share a concern and wish for it to be printed on this list, please consult with the person/s whose names are involved, then let the pastor know in writing via email they give their consent.

Community at Prayer

Hymn for Advent

NCH #112

Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

WACHET AUF

~ as you are able, please stand ~

The Welcoming Table

Rev. Sisson

Welcome of New Member *Corrie Bates* (see insert)

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.

Anthem *Come, Lord Jesus* Choir
by Oliver Tarney

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 (congregation reads *bold print*)

Joyous God, Originator of all Gifts,
This day and always, we celebrate the gifts of our hands and hearts. We share our talents and time, knowing our energy builds the world with love. We share our treasures, knowing that all gifts we entrust to your Church will build your Realm. With joy, we devote our first fruits to loving you and your children. Amen.

Blessing our Hands (congregation is invited to hold hands out with palms up)

God bless our hands with strength to support and advocate for justice.
God bless our hands with steadiness to seek the knowledge leading to better prevention and treatment, and, eventually, a cure.
God bless our hands with openness to reach through stigma with welcome and reconciliation. God bless our hands with tenderness to care for all who mourn.
God bless our hands with other hands to hold – the journey is long, but we walk together in hope and love. **Amen.**

Hymn for Sending NCH #526 *We Are Marching in the Light* SIYAHAMBA
~ as you are able, please stand ~

Postlude Nancy Chronister

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Worship Resources are adapted from:
Ecumenical Advocacy Resources
ELCA
UCC Worship Ways

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

World AIDS Day and Week – Dec. 1 - 8 – The church, along with JPar Realty and other sponsors, are hosting panels from the **National AIDS Memorial Quilt**, the largest public art exhibit in the world, as our next gallery and remember those we have lost, and honor those who are living life well with HIV and AIDS. This is a daily gallery, and we appreciate those who have signed up to volunteer throughout the week. <https://baltimoreworldaidsday.com>

Today: noon – Opening Ceremony

1-8 p.m. Open to the Public

1-8 p.m. Monday thru Saturday – Open to the Public

1-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 – Open to the Public

Changing the Cycles – as the new school year is under way, we return to bringing **sanitary products** to help those in menstrual poverty. Please bring items to the box in the foyer and help young women remain in school during their cycles.

ACTC is asking for any non-perishable food items. For December, please bring **canned soups**. Place items in the red wagon in the foyer so they may be delivered weekly.

Church-wide Called Business Meeting – Sunday, December 15 – immediately after the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the loan from Cornerstone and vote on a 2025 budget.

To Make an Offering Now



Church Staff

Kelly M. Sisson **Pastor** fssuccpastor@gmail.com (410)832-3974

Nancy Chronister **Director of Music** nancyfc88@comcast.net (610)724-6096

Alex Vishio **Theologian at Large** avishio@mail.smu.edu

Zach Langdon-Kennedy **Artist in Residence** tinnatupaws@gmail.com

Mario Cardenas **Administrative and Financial Assistant** fss.church.ofc@gmail.com (410)377-5224

Renard Noble **Properties Caregiver** (410) 419-5199

Church Office (410) 377-5224

WiFi Password: ONAcomma

Consistory for 2024

Amanda Ajulu – President - amandamajulu@yahoo.com

Jen Langdon – Vice President - jenjele@gmail.com

Bill Ingram – Treasurer - william.ingram@gmail.com

Richard Arrington - richard_arrington2003@yahoo.com

Emily Perl – emilyperl78@gmail.com

Laura Weaver Haas – laurahaas0720@gmail.com

Nancy Ciesla - nciesla62@gmail.com

Nancy Chronister – Member at Large - nancyfc88@comcast.net

Kelly Sisson – Ex-Officio - fssuccpastor@gmail.com

New Member Promises

All who are received into the membership of First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ hope to discover nurture and support within this family of faith.

Today we ask Corrie Bates if you are willing to nurture and support your fellow congregants as you journey in faith together.

If so, please say, "I am with God's help".

"I am with God's help."

Do you affirm and support the mission of the church, which simply stated, is "That they may all be one."

"I am with God's help."

Do you promise to resist oppression and injustice and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

"I am with God's help."

Will you treat yourself and others with kindness, patience, and a willingness to render Christ's peace, as far as you are able?

"I am with God's help."

Will you support the work of the church with your prayers, your presence, and your resources?

"I am with God's help."

To the Congregation:

Do you promise to support Corrie as a new member as she journeys in faith with you today, and in the days ahead?

"I am with God's help."

We welcome you into the full fellowship and active involvement of First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ. We celebrate your weaving yourselves into the tapestry of this faith community and the wider church. Welcome!