

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
Ascension Sunday – Year B

May 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.



Prelude *Lord Most Holy, Lord Most Mighty* Nancy Flandermeyer Chronister, Director of Music
by Mark Roberts

Welcome The Rev. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship ~congregation reads **bold** print~

From uncomfortable pews, from tricycle seats, from easy chairs in front of TVs:

God gathers us in, giving us the words with which to proclaim the gospel.

At kitchen sinks, at laptops and blackboards, at nursing stations:

Christ calls us to share in serving all creation.

In communities gathered to pray, in memories of those who served, in families grilling in the backyard:

The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy.

Hymn for Praise NCH #259 *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

DEO GRACIAS

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Lesson from the Psalms

Psalms 1:1-3

Lois Joellenbeck, Liturgist

Hymn for the Church

NCH #313 *Like a Tree beside the Waters*

SILVER CREEK

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Peace in our world
- Harry Claridge – awaiting surgery
- Rachel Ezell's friend James in ICU
- Beth Wheat's sister, Pat, awaiting more surgery
- The Flandermeyers – Nancy Chronister's parents
- Doug and Anthony
- Laura Weaver Haas's mother
- Bryce – Jen Langdon's nephew

Call to Reconciliation

We gather as God's people, believing the promises fulfilled in Christ. We do not need to confess out of dread or fear, but in trust that God is faithful to forgive us and make us new.

Join me as we pray, saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

How foolish we are, Calling God, to think we could be happy when we sit in seduction's comfortable seats, and scoff at your call to discipleship; or run away from your love, rather than following Jesus; or idolize the celebrities and superstars, and not see you in those who wait on us in stores, restaurants, and sport arenas.

Forgive us, Author of Life. Keep us from our silly selfishness as we seek to become those branches children can climb on; as we hope to provide shade for fellow pilgrims; as we long to be continually nourished by the Living Water of Jesus the Christ.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

We are no longer blown about in the winds of the world, we are grounded, yesterday, today, tomorrow in God's forgiveness, hope and love.

Today, tomorrow, forever: we can bear fresh fruit, sharing God's peace and joy with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

Choral Response VU #356 *Seek Ye First* LAFFERTY

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

Scripture Lesson *John 17:6-19* Lois Joellenbeck, Liturgist

The Anthem *Oh, Sing To The Lord* Choir
Brazilian folk tune
arranged by Harriet Ziegenhals

The Message *Letting It Shine* Rev. Sisson

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

As we offer our gifts, remind us that they will be used to heal the broken often lost in the systems we have created, to feed those who don't have the forms filled out correctly, and to bring hope to those who wander the shadowed alleys of despair. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Sending

From the comfort of this place, to the discomfort of discipleship,
we will go to serve your people, Loving God.

Weeding community gardens which feed the hungry, tutoring children after school,
we will go to wrap others in your grace, Jesus our Brother.

Listening to the stories of the ignored, learning the language of our newest neighbors,
we will go to discover the truth you share in every moment, Spirit of Wisdom.

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

Postlude

+ + + + +

Worship Resources are adapted from:
Thom Shuman
Vincent Van Gogh

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 current gallery exhibit is by **Baltimore Sculptors**. The gallery is open today from 2-4p.m. or by appointment by calling 540-230-6903.

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!

Baltimore 350 is sending postcards out this **Wednesday, May 15th at 7p.m.** to remind people to get out to vote. If you can be a part of this good work, show up or see Lois Joellenbeck for details.

Upcoming Events to save the date:

Next Sunday – Pentecost – *Wear Red*

June 2nd – Listening Session after Worship from Strategic Planning Committee

June 7th – PRIDE Comedy Show

June 9th – Rogers Forge PRIDE Parade

June 15th – Baltimore PRIDE Parade

June 16th – PRIDE in the Park

June 19th – Juneteenth with Rogers Forge

June 30th – FSS PRIDE Worship Service

July 14th – Churchwide Business Meeting after Worship

To Make an Offering Now



Church Staff

Kelly M. Sisson **Pastor** fssuccpastor@gmail.com (410)832-3974
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Deb Taylor **Administrative 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
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Nancy Chronister – Member at Large - nancyfc88@comcast.net
Kelly Sisson – Ex-Officio - fssuccpastor@gmail.com

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

259

*The Venerable Bede (673-735)**Phil. 2:1-11; Eph. 1:15-23**St. 1-2, transl. Elizabeth R. Charles, 1858; alt.**St. 3, transl. Benjamin Webb, 1854; alt.**Fanfare (introduction and coda, and interlude if desired)*

1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing, new
 2 You are a pres - ent joy, O Christ, tri -
 3 O ris - en Christ, as - cend-ed now, to

hymns through-out the world shall ring; By a new way none
 um - phant love once sac - ri - ficed, And great the light in
 your blessed name all knees shall bow; You are, while end - less

ev - er trod Christ shares once more the throne of God.
 you we see to guide us to e - ter - ni - ty.
 a - ges run, in Tri - une God - head ev - er One.

This Latin hymn by the Venerable Bede is possibly among the first Christian hymns written in England. Bede's Historia Ecclesiastica is an important source of early English history.

Music adaptation Copyright © 1985 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Tune: DEO GRACIAS L.M.

"The Agincourt Song," England, c. 1415

Arr. E. Power Biggs, 1947; adapt. Richard Proulx, 1985

For another harmonization, see 184, 209

Like a Tree beside the Waters

Jer. 17:7-8

Unison

James F. D. Martin, 1992

1 Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov-ing care,
 2 Like a tree bc-side the riv-er, draw-ing life from ho-ly streams,
 3 We, be-side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e-ter-nal life.

We, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en-dur-ing wit-ness bear.
 Fill us with your love for-ev-er; re-cre-ate our hopes and dreams.
 Give to all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris-es o-ver strife.

In each pass-ing gen-er-a-tion may your voice of love be heard.
 Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.
 O Liv-ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to-day.

Bless, we pray, this con-gre-ga-tion with your ho-ly, liv-ing Word.
 May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm em-brace.
 By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up-on the Way.

James Martin wrote this text at the invitation of Campbellsport (Wisconsin) United Church of Christ for the celebration of its 125th anniversary year in 1993. Ordained to the United Church of Christ in 1980, Martin has served as pastor to churches in Wisconsin.

Tune: SILVER CREEK 8.7.8.7.D.
 Roy Hopp, 1989
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL



First and St Stephens
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
6915 York Rd. Baltimore, MD. 21212

ART GALLERY

APRIL 14, 2024–JUNE 2, 2024

FEATURING
BALTIMORE SCULPTORS

Meet the Artists Reception:
Sunday, May 5, 2024
12:00PM—2:00PM



GALLERY OPEN ON SUNDAYS

12:00PM–2:00PM

BY APPOINTMENT CALL: 540.230.6903

Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Saturday,
June 29, 2024**

3rd & Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. | 10 am



**Mass Poor People's
& Low-Wage
Workers' Assembly
& Moral March on
Washington, D.C.
& to the Polls**

Bishop William J. Barber, II
National Co-Chair,
Poor People's Campaign;
A National Call for Moral Revival;
President and Senior Lecturer,
Repairers of the Breach



Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis
National Co-Chair,
Poor People's Campaign;
A National Call for Moral Revival;
Executive Director,
Kairos Center

**REPAIRERS
OF THE BREACH**

Poor People's Campaign
A NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL

KAIROS CENTER
FOR RELIGION, JUSTICE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Twitter: @UniteThePoor

Facebook: @anewppc

Website: poorpeoplescampaign.org



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**



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



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



Be a
TPW Kid!