

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
Baptism of our Lord Sunday – Year B
The Forty-third Sunday of Physical Distancing due to COVID-19

January 10, 2021

10:30 a.m.

*Some portions of Zoom church may be recorded to share brief clips on our webpage.
All personal information or prayer concerns will not be a part of recorded information.*

Meditation for Worship

I often tell people that the only thing worse than a bullet in my spine would have been to nurture revenge in my heart. Such an attitude would have extended my tragic injury into my soul, hurting my wife, son, and others even more. It is bad enough that the physical effects are permanent, but at least I can choose to prevent spiritual injury.

from Steven McDonald in *The Legacy of Forgiveness*

Prelude

“A Rosetti Christmas”

Nancy Chronister, Pianist

by Hayes

Welcome

The Rev. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Choral Call to Worship

The Universe is Bending

**The Universe Is bending, stretching long and stretching out,
embracing all our struggles with gentle arms of Hope.
The Universe is bending, stretching long and stretching out
and it's leading toward Joy and Peace by the Clear Light of Love.**

Lesson from the Psalms

Psalm 29

John Henson, Liturgist

Hymn for Worship

VU #84 *O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word*

(see insert or screen)

Please remember that during this time of physical distancing our mission continues, expenses continue, and staff continues to work. If you would consider making an offering through on-line giving, or mail your check to the church address, you can find all of that information on our church web page: first-ststephens.org

The Lesson from the Gospels

Matthew 2:1-12

Liturgists

Mark 1:4-11

Solo

Jordan Tibo, Soloist

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Prayers for our country and it's democracy
- Sheila and Carl Wise – friends of Pauline Lee
- Connie Hackett – Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Karen Lovelace after surgery
- Emily Perl's mother in Tiffin, OH
- Former pastor, The Rev. Terri Fitzgerald – living with severe hip and back pain.
- Len Dufauchard Sr., Len Jr.'s father – beginning chemotherapy.
- Gloria Balding – undergoing chemotherapy
- Alex Vishio's father – living with cancer
- Inbal Neun – living with breast cancer
- Barbara Joellenbeck living with cancer
- Stef and Colleen's friend, Val.
- Stef's brother, Dave, living with Alzheimer's
- All those living in this time of pandemic – healthcare workers, emergency responders, custodial helpers, grocers, food suppliers, scientists – especially local restaurants, nursing homes, hospitals, those struggling with physical distancing and mask wearing.

Guided Prayer

Hymn for Going Forth NCH #154 *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (see screen)

Benediction

Pastor

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Talk Back! Everyone is invited to grab another cup of coffee and stay on line for a talk back with the pastor about today's service or whatever topic of interest comes up.

We are preparing to make our financial promises for the upcoming year. Be praying about what you can do to support the ministries of First and St. Stephen's UCC. We will celebrate our giving and the past year of ministries at our **Annual Meeting – January 24th** after the worship service. There is a tag on our webpage for you to make your pledge in a confidential on line manner.

Consistory – meets at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday** evening. This will involve the old and new consistories as prepare for Annual Meeting and live into 2021.

If you want to **speak with the pastor** during social isolation time, her phone number is: 410-832-3974. Or, you can email her at: fssuccpastor@gmail.com Kelly is glad to set up a facetime or zoom appointment with you.

If you would like to receive the worship materials, hymns, etc. for Sunday, please place your email in the chat column of Zoom at the end of the service, or email the pastor at fssuccpastor@gmail.com

Have you considered joining the membership of First and St. Stephen's? If you are interested in learning about membership at First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, please let the pastor know of your interest. She will contact you. We are still receiving new members during our time of physical isolation.

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

84

1 O ra - diant Christ, in - car - nate Word, e -
2 Our bar - tered, bus - y lives burn dim, too
3 Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream, the
4 O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth, our

ter - nal love re - vealed in time: come, make your home with -
tired to care, too numb to feel. Come, shine up - on our
font where we were born a - new. At - tune your church to
faith and hope and love re - new. Come, lead the peo - ples

in our hearts, that we may dwell in light sub - lime.
shad - owed world: your ra - diance bathes with power to heal.
know you near; il - lu - mine all we say and do.
to your peace, as stars once led the way to you.

Words: Ruth Duck 1991
Music: Robert Schumann 1839, adapt.
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