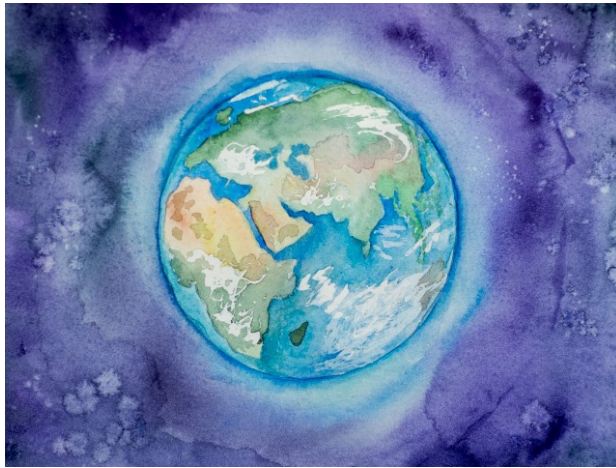


Use the following worship guide as we gather on Sunday morning via Zoom. Simply click here:

<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  
Fourth Sunday in Eastertide – Year B

April 21, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Prelude *Christ Is Our Cornerstone* (DARWALLS 148TH)  
arranged by B. Culli Nancy Flandermeyer Chronister, Director of Music

Welcome The Rev. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

The Collect ~ *in unison* ~

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn for Worship NCH #27 *From All That Dwell below the Skies* LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
~ as you are able, please stand ~

Scripture Lesson *John 10:11-18* Brian Barr, Liturgist

Our Joys and Concerns

*Remember these known joys and concerns:*

- All those impacted by the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge.
- Peace in our world
- Laura and DeAnn Weaver-Haas celebrating ten years of marriage.
- Matthew Lavasser – after surgery
- Harry Claridge – awaiting surgery
- Rachel Ezell's friends Mary and James – health concerns.
- 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 Prayer VU #356 *Seek Ye First* LAFFERTY  
~ remain seated as we sing ~

Prayer of Penance (congregation reads **bold print**)

Lord, we pray for this world you have made. We ask your blessing on earth, wind, and water. Preserve this sweet place in its course through the cosmos.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for the community of living creatures. Guide us in our works and ways, that every being may praise with its life and serve you all of its days.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for our human family. You named us stewards of this Earth, and we want to tend it and care for it. Teach us to live in harmony together, so we can live in harmony with Earth.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord, again and again we seek what is good and do what is bad. We stand in the rubble of many bad choices. We have been forgetful and willful tenants since you first put us in the Garden. Give us strength and courage to change our ways, so this Earth may flourish under our care.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord, at the end of all things you will bring us into your household, to make community with you forever. Fill us with your Spirit now, in our days on this Earth, so we may be fit and ready for the new heaven and the new Earth you promise.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord, you have called us to be stewards of this wonderful Earth. Guide our efforts: refresh the ground and the sea, let the air be soft and sweet.

**Teach us to care for your Earth, as you care for us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

|                      |          |  |                       |
|----------------------|----------|--|-----------------------|
| A Story for All Ages |          | <i>All children are invited to come sit by the pastor for a brief time together.</i> |                       |
| Earth Day Hymn       | NCH #557 | <i>Pray for the Wilderness</i>   | WILDERNESS            |
|                      |          | <i>~ as you are able, please stand ~</i>   |                       |
| Scripture Lesson     |          | <i>Psalms 23</i>   | Brian Barr, Liturgist |
| The Lesson in Song   | NCH #247 | <i>My Shepherd Is the Living God</i>   | CONSOLATION           |
|                      |          | <i>~ as you are able, please stand ~</i>   |                       |
| The Message          |          | <i>Garden to Table</i>   | Rev. Sisson           |
| Anthem               |          | <i>Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us</i>   | Choir                 |
|                      |          | by Hal Hopson  |                       |

### 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

**As we offer our gifts to you, Gentle Shepherd, may we lay down our prejudices towards others, so they might find a welcome in our hearts; may we set aside our fears of the future, so you might lead us into your future, may we become the goodness and mercy for which others have been looking all their lives. Amen.**

|                  |          |   |           |
|------------------|----------|---|-----------|
| Hymn for Sending | NCH #529 | <i>Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise</i> | OPEN DOOR |
|                  |          | <i>~ as you are able, please stand ~</i>  |           |
| Benediction      |          | <i>~please remain standing~</i>           |           |

Postlude

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Worship Resources are adapted from:  
St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle, WA  
Thom Shuman, PCUSA

**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 either 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.

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 April we will focus on bringing: **individual juice cartons, pastas and pasta meals, and canned tomato products.**

The new gallery exhibit is by **Baltimore Sculptors**. There will be a **"Meet the Artist Reception" on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2p.m.** If you can help with a Cinco de Mayo theme reception, see Carol Berman. If you can be a docent from noon to 2p.m. one Sunday between now and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, see Sharon Barr.

To Make an Offering Now



#### 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

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**Church Office (410) 377-5224**

**WiFi Password: ONAcomma**