

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

Epiphany Sunday – Year C

January 5, 2025

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

Nancy Flandermyer Chronister, Director of Music

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

The Epiphany Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Liturgist

Call to Worship

~ congregation reads **bold print** ~

God of proclamation and epiphany,

Through the words of prophets and angels you reveal the possibilities of a different way for the world ...

God of encounter and epiphany,

Through the life and actions of Jesus you reveal the passionate love at the heart of your Kingdom ...

God of epiphany and challenge,

as we hear your word now in scripture, sermon and song – open our knowing and understanding to your patterns and their possibilities.

God of epiphany and change,

as we encounter your Word now in story, bread and wine -- open our patterns and possibilities to the transforming power of your love and send us on by a different way.

Hymn of Praise NCH 144

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELDERKIN

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Peace in our world, our country, our community
- Nancy Ciesla's brother after surgery
- Lisa Kennedy – knee surgery
- Kelly Sisson on the 38th anniversary of her ordination
- Nancy Chronister's father
- Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister, recovering from knee surgery
- Jen's friend, Andrew and his family
- 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 Epiphany NCH #165 *Love Came Down at Christmas*

WHITNEY

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures
Anthem

Isaiah 60:1-6
Christmas Star

Liturgist

Words and Music by Amanda Udis-Kessler
Duet by Lois Joellenback, Emily Perl

Message

From Lighting Candles to Living Lights

Congregational Response

The Dove Will Fly on Mended Wing

O WALY WALY

Words by Tim Reaburn

~ see insert ~ please remain seated ~

The Welcoming Table

*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.*

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 in this bulletin.

Dedicating our Offerings *(congregation reads bold print)*

Emmanuel, bright Morning Star, gift us the grace and generosity to respond freely and fully, whatever you might ask of us. Receive these offerings as an offering of ourselves. Amen.

Hymn for Sending NCH #164

Arise, Your Light Is Come
~ as you are able, please stand ~

FESTAL SONG

Benediction

Postlude

+ + + + +

Worship Resources are adapted from:
Pat Bennett, Wildgoose.

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 join us for coffee after the service in the Gathering Room behind the sanctuary.

To Make an Offering Now



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to those providing for **coffee hour**:

Today – Jen Langdon

January 12th - Carol Berman

January 19th - Corrie Bates

January 26th - Beth and Tim Wheat

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

Changing the Cycles – please bring **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.

Church Office (410) 377-5224

WiFi Password: ONAcomma

Regular Church Office Hours – noon to 5p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Church Staff

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

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In partnership
with the
African
Descent
Lutheran
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Delaware-
Maryland
Chapter

2025 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR COMMEMORATION

Sunday, January 19

Keynote- 3:30pm
Evening Prayer- 4:30pm
Reception- 5:15

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Sherita Hill Golden

former Vice President and Chief Diversity
Officer for Johns Hopkins Medicine



PREACHER

The Rev. Brian McClinton

Senior Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran, Hagerstown



Community of Grace Campus
5699 Meridale Road , Baltimore, MD 21228

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri - umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We will fol - low the light, beau - ti - ful light, come where the
 dew-drops of mer - cy are bright, Shine all a - round us by
 day and by night, Je - sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 George D. Elderkin
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

The Dove Will Fly on Mended Wing

Tim Reaburn

O WALY WALY

Traditional English, harm. CJ Redden-Liotta

1., 5. Re - lig - ion, cul - ture, creed and race each hu - man spir - it and each face
2. And take a - way a new found song, a new found voice to act on wrongs.
3. A peo - ple stand, a peo - ple call: come ga - ther here and wel - come all.
4. And chains will fall, the shack - les break, the earth will rise, and pow - ers quake,

we cel - e - brate, we dance and sing the tal - ents here each one might bring.
To trust, to heal, to help us cope, to stand as one, re - new - ing hope.
Di - ver - si - fy and cel - e - brate that hope - less - ness is not our fate.
just - ice will roll, and free - dom sing, the dove will fly on men - ded wing.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 1., 5., 2., 3., and 4. indicating different verses. The score concludes with a double bar line.

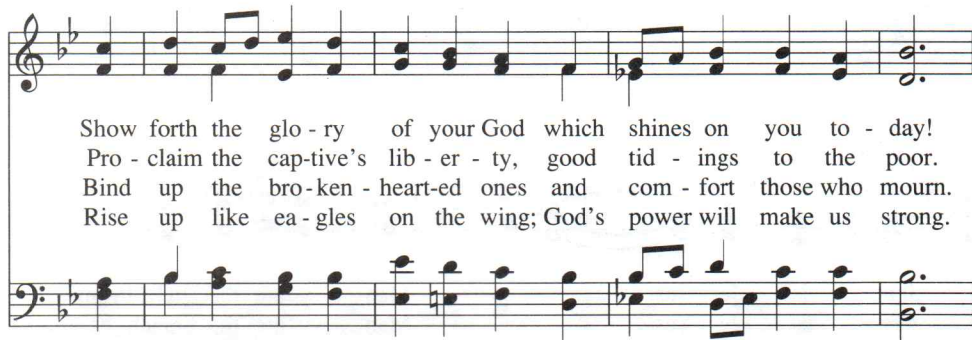
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Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21**Ruth Duck, 1973*


1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
 William Walter, 1872