

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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year B

September 29, 2024

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

Melody

Nancy Flandermyer Chronister,

by Samuel Taylor-Coleridge

Director of Music

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship

~ congregation reads **bold print** ~

We have walked with you, O God, from many parts of the world to this time and place.

And we will walk with you, O God, into the world to serve all people.

We leave behind our old securities; we leave behind our reliance on worldly goods.

And we will walk with you, O God, into the world to live with all people.

We leave behind all which holds us back; we leave behind all which keeps us from following you.

And we will walk with you, O God into the world to work with all people.

We leave behind the fears which bind us; we leave behind the hurts which damage us.

And we will walk with you, O God, into the peace you offer to all people.

Hymn of Praise NCH #312

We Love Your Realm, O God

ST. THOMAS

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Reading from the Psalms

Psalms 124

Bill Ingram, Liturgist

Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Peace in our world
- Those impacted by Hurricane Helene
- The family of Marcellus Williams
- Martha Wharton after the death of her father
- Rachel Ezell after the death of her father
- 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.

Call to Reconciliation

Sometimes our words and actions show how we are salt for the world. But then come those moments when we lose our flavor and our way. Let us confess to our God, so we might be restored and forgiven.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Called to be your people, Living God - why do we find it so hard to answer? You ask us to speak out against injustice, and we whisper because we are afraid someone might hear us. You ask us to see the pain and poverty around us, but we close our eyes. You tell us that everyone, and each one, is created in your image, yet we persist in noticing the differences between us and others.

Forgive us, God of the Past and Creator of the Future. May we be the ones who go out into the world, bearing your gifts of peace, of hope, of healing, of joy to everyone who is broken, even as we have been made whole through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Touched by the healing hands of our Lord, filled with the grace of our God, led by the compassion of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are opened, and we discover we are forgiven and at peace with God.

Those who are created to love the unlovable; those who are created to bear grace; those who are created to embrace all people: we receive our forgiveness, giving thanks to our God. Amen.

Hymn for Discipleship NCH #499 *Pues Si Vivimos* PUER SI VIVIMOS

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Gospel Lesson *Mark 9:38-50* Bill Ingram, Liturgist

Anthem Choir

The Message *Salty* Rev. Sisson

Congregational Response NCH #181 *You Are Salt for the Earth, O People* BRING FORTH

~ as you are able, please stand ~

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)*

May we open our hearts and offer our gifts to others so, that as the hungry are fed, the homeless are housed, the grieving are comforted, and the lost are led home, may they bring healing to your heart which breaks at all the brokenness in our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn for Sending NCH #79 *May The Sending One Defend You* ROLLINGBAY

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Benediction

Postlude Nancy Chronister

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Worship Resources are adapted from:
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 place it in the offering plate or hand it to the pastor after the service. Join us for light refreshments immediately after the service in the Gathering Room behind the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jason and Kevin are getting married!...next Saturday, October 5 at 3p.m. They welcome all of their church family to witness their commitment to one another, and to stay for a reception in the church basement after the service. Please let them know this week if you plan to attend:
Jason@jpar5star.com

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

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.

On-line giving is still down. Please know your giving is important on a regular basis, and consider making your offering ‘the old fashion way’ in the offering plate until we can correct the on line problems. Many thanks.

Coffee Hour Helpers – If every person takes one week to provide and help with coffee hour, it won't be a burden to anyone. Those who have volunteered coming up:

Carol Berman - 9/29

Jen Langdon and Richard Arrington – 10/6

To Make an Offering Now



Church Staff

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Consistory for 2024

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