

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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Year B

October 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.*

*If you are visiting with us, Welcome!! If you place your email address in the chat,
we will gladly send you the weekly Order of Worship and Announcements.*

Please note that the "chat" feature will be turned off after the Announcements and back on at the Benediction.



Prelude "People Need the Lord" Nancy F. Chronister, Director of Music
Welcome and Opportunities for Ministry Rev. Kelly Sisson

The Lesson from the Psalms Psalm 90:12-17 Liturgist
Call to Worship

We look in the mirror and what do we see?
**We see people who try to be faithful,
even as questions and struggles challenge our faith.**
We look in the mirror and how do we see?
**We see with hearts which are open to God's love,
with lives which seek to trust when all the evidence
tells us not to be so foolish.**
We look in the mirror and who do we see?
**We see Jesus, the One who struggles with
the questions we raise, who models faithfulness
for all who would follow.**

Preparation for Prayer "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"
Sharing Our Joys and Concerns Rev. Sisson

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Anthony Carota – after another fall.
- Emily and Mora Perl after the death of their mother/grandmother.
- Amanda Ajulu and her family
- Laura Haas and her wife, DeAnn, struggling with depression and PTSD
- Gloria Banks – living with cancer
- Alex Vishio's father – living with cancer
- Stef's brother, Dave, living with Alzheimer's

Pastoral Prayer

Call to Reconciliation

Let us willingly embrace that which we believe is true - we can come to the seat of grace, bringing our prayers of confession to the One who is filled to overflowing with mercy and hope. Join me as we pray together,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

We stand before you, Saving God, stripped of our pretensions and pride, for nothing we do or say, or do not, can be hidden from you. You hear the angry words we preach to ourselves; you sift through the rubble of hurts we have caused; you see how we stumble, weighed down by all that 'stuff' which keeps us from following Jesus.

We stand before you, Holy Grace. As you empty our hands of that wealth of unneeded things we cling so tightly to, fill them with your grace and hope. As we let go of all which might hold us back, give us the trust to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that life with which he offers to each of us.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Because God loves us, we lack for nothing; because God forgives us, we have everything we need; because God surrounds us with sisters and brothers, we do not journey alone.

Committing everything to God, trusting in the One who redeems us, we decide to live as God's faithful and forgiven people. Amen.

The Lesson from the Gospels

Mark 10:17-31

Congregational Response

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

~ see screen ~

Sermon

“Stuff”

Rev. Sisson

Offering Ourselves

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

Benediction

Rev. Sisson

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Worship Resources for this service are adapted and used by permission from the writings of Thom Shuman.

Talk Back is immediately after the service today. Join with others, have another cup of coffee, and stay as long as you like as people discuss the sermon, current events, or whatever else is on their minds.

The Memorial Service for Emily Perl’s mother will be next Saturday, October 16th at 2p.m. in Tiffin, Ohio. If you are interested in attending virtually, you may do so by visiting: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOKE6R8pcJpPl01r3hn39OQ>

Consistory will meet this Thursday night at 6p.m. Please let Karen Lovelace know if you are going to be late or unable to attend.

The Memorial Service for Barbara Joellenbeck is scheduled for Saturday morning, October 30th at 11 a.m. Details forthcoming.

Looking Ahead:

- Oct. 17 -- Alex Vishio preaching
- Oct. 24 -- Annual Church Meeting, 2022 Budget
- Nov. 7 -- Beginning of Hybrid Church – Join us on Zoom or at 6915 York Rd.

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.

If you want to **speak with the pastor**, it is best to leave a message on her home phone number: 410-832-3974. Or, you can email her at: fsuccpastor@gmail.com **NOTE: Kelly will be in a week-long intensive class at United Lutheran Seminary this week. Messages will be returned some evenings or on Saturday.**

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 fsuccpastor@gmail.com