

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

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost – Year B

October 13, 2024

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

Nancy Flandermyer Chronister,

Director of Music

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship

~ congregation reads **bold print** ~

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.

Hymn of Praise NCH #3 *Many and Great, O God Are Your Works*

LACQUIPARLE

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Peace in our world
- Those impacted by Hurricanes Milton and Helene
- Chelsea Haas Adler expecting her first child in February.
- Laura Weaver-Haas' health
- 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.

The Psalm NCH #515

O God, My God

O GOD MY GOD

~ please remain seated ~

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 speak 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 to so tightly, 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, 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 siblings, 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.

Hymn for Discipleship NCH #499 *Pues Si Vivimos* PUES SI VIVIMOS
~ as you are able, please stand ~

Gospel Lesson *Mark 10:17-31* Corrie Bates, Liturgist
Anthem *Sing Out To God* Choir
by Michael Girlinghouse, Richard E. Voorhaar

The Message *Release and Soar* Rev. Sisson

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)*

When we look in the mirror, may we see our siblings in need - the lonely, the hungry, the searching, the aching. And as we see them, we pray that these gifts we offer may be used to bring them food, hope, companionship, and healing. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn for Sending NCH #565 *God, Whose Giving Know No Ending* AUSTRIAN HYMN
~ as you are able, please stand ~

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

Docents needed! We are back in gallery and need people to be docents between noon and 2p.m. on Sundays. If you can stay after worship one Sunday to do that, please contact Sharon Barr (sharonbarr0227@gmail.com). **Today's docent is: Nikki Balding.**

Transfamily Support Group meets this Tuesday night at 7p.m. in the Gathering Room. If you, or someone you know, has a transgender family member and you want to be with other trans family members who are being supportive of their families, join in. You are welcome to attend!

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. Be watching for details about Thanksgiving Baskets for ACTC.

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.

Save the Date – Fall Church Business Meeting – Sunday, November 3rd

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:

Today - Nikki Balding
October 20th - Carol Berman
October 27th - Richard Arrington
November 3rd - Jen Langdon and Carol Berman
November 10th - Gallery Reception
November 17th - Emily Pearl
November 24th - Lois Joellenbeck

To Make an Offering Now



Church Staff

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WiFi Password: ONAcomma

Consistory for 2024

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