

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

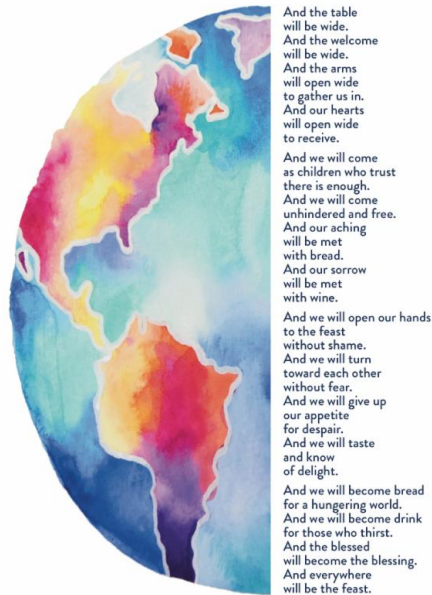
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2398495210>

\*\* 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  
Second Sunday after Pentecost – Year B

June 2, 2024

10:30 a.m.



And the table  
will be wide.  
And the welcome  
will be wide.  
And the arms  
will open wide  
to gather us in.  
And our hearts  
will open wide  
to receive.  
And we will come  
as children who trust  
there is enough.  
And we will come  
unhindered and free.  
And our aching  
will be met  
with bread.  
And our sorrow  
will be met  
with wine.  
And we will open our hands  
to the feast  
without shame.  
And we will turn  
toward each other  
without fear.  
And we will give up  
our appetite  
for despair.  
And we will taste  
and know  
of delight.  
And we will become bread  
for a hungry world.  
And we will become drink  
for those who thirst.  
And the blessed  
will become the blessing.  
And everywhere  
will be the feast.

Prelude

*Give Me Jesus* Nancy Flandermyer Chronister, Director of Music  
arranged by Mary McDonald

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship

~congregation reads bold print~

When we are relaxing after a long day, when we are pacing midnight's floor,

**God knows, and is with us.**

When we are climbing the ladder of success, when we have tripped over despair,

**God knows, and guides us along the way.**

When we are tongue-tied and in love, when we struggle to speak of hope,

**God knows, and gives us the words we need.**

Hymn for Praise NCH #495 *Called As Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Lesson from the Psalms

*Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18*

Liturgist

Hymn for Promise

MV #161 (see insert) *I Have Called You by Your Name*

KELLY

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Our Joys and Concerns

*Remember these known joys and concerns:*

- Peace in our world
- Beth Wheat's sister, Pat, after surgery on Friday
- Andrew Sisson, Kelly's brother – hospitalized
- Laura Weaver-Haas – after a fall
- Harry Claridge – awaiting surgery
- Rachel Ezell's friend James
- Doug and Anthony
- Laura Weaver Haas's mother
- Bryce – Jen Langdon's nephew

Call to Reconciliation *(congregation reads bold print)*

God knows – our thoughts, our hearts, our deeds, our inability to love, even our refusal to forgive others. Yet the One who knows us best, is willing to gather us up in loving arms of grace and mercy. Let us bring our confessions, as we pray together, saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

**You search us, Wonderful God, and what do you find? People whose minds are so full of the world’s trash, that there is no room to think of others. People who offer stale crusts to the hungry, not the food which gives them life. People who are so busy patting ourselves on the back, that we cannot reach out to those who have fallen.**

**Forgive us, All merciful God. May we listen to your words of grace, and become more gracious. May we hear your words of hope, and then live as people overflowing with it. When you call us, may we respond, ‘here am I,’ as faithfully as Jesus.**  
*Silence is kept*

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news, dear friends: the One who knows our worst fills us with the best – grace, wonder, and forgiveness.

**Our ears tingle with this news, our hearts overflow with hope. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

A Story for All Ages *All children are invited to come sit by the pastor for a brief time together.*

Scripture Lesson *1 Samuel 3:1-10* Pastor

The Anthem *God Be In My Head* Choir  
By Daniel E. Schwandt

The Message *The Intimacy of the Table* Rev. Sisson

The Welcoming Table *(congregation reads bold print)*

May the God of the Feast be with you.

**And also with you.**

Offer your hearts to our God, dear ones.

**We do so, that God’s light might shine in them.**

Sing praises to God who loves us.

**We rejoice in the One who invites us to this Table.**

The Invitation

*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.*

Breaking of the Bread

Sharing of the Cup

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 *(congregation reads bold print)*

**Because you know us, O God, you are aware of our reluctance to share what we have. You continue to call us, to challenge us, to use us in the work of your**

kingdom. So take these gifts, and continue to call us to faithful lives and generous giving, so that others might be blessed as we are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn for Commitment NCH #349 *I Come with Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Benediction

Postlude

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Worship Resources are adapted from:  
Thom Shuman

**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 stay for coffee and conversation in the Gathering Room after the service.

Immediately after the service today there will be a **Listening Session** with our Strategic Planning Committee. This is to update us on recent developments to prepare for the church-wide Business Meeting on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.

The current gallery exhibit is by **Baltimore Sculptors**. The gallery is open today from 2-4p.m. and then closes this afternoon. Our next gallery, **(S)kin** will begin next Sunday.

Please bring **sanitary products for "Changing the Cycles"** as we help end menstrual poverty.

**ACTC** is desperately asking for any non-perishable food items. For the month of June, please bring **bottled water and travel-sized deodorant**.

### JUNE ~ A Month of PRIDE:

Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – PRIDE Comedy Show - \$15/person

June 9<sup>th</sup> – Rodgers Forge PRIDE Parade

Wear your PRIDE colors. We'll leave the church after coffee hour.

The parade starts at 1p.m.

Be watching for details next week:

June 15<sup>th</sup> – Baltimore PRIDE Parade

June 16<sup>th</sup> – PRIDE in the Park

June 19<sup>th</sup> – Juneteenth with Rogers Forge

June 30<sup>th</sup> – FSS PRIDE Worship Service

To Make an Offering Now



## Church Staff

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**WiFi Password: ONAcomma**

## Consistory for 2024

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## Strategic Planning Committee

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