

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

Thanksgiving Sunday – Year C

November 20, 2022

10:30 a.m.



*If you are visiting online, please place your email address in the chat.
We will gladly send you the weekly Order of Worship and Announcements.*

Prelude

Praise Unending

Nancy Chronister, Director of Music

By Lani Smith

Welcome

Rev. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Lesson from the Psalms p. 688 in NCH

Psalm 100

Taylor Ramage, Liturgist

*~ as you are able, please stand ~
~ congregation sings at "R" ~*

Call to Worship Litany

(Congregation reads **bold**)

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

We glorify our God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.

God has done great things for us, filling us with grace.

God fed our ancestors in the wilderness, God clothes us with hope.

We will offer our hearts to God, always saying, 'Thank you!' to the One who loves us.

We will sing our praises, shouting of God's presence in our lives.

Hymn for Worship NCH #73

Enter Rejoice and Come In

ENTER, REJOICE

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Sisson

Please remember these shared concerns:

- Our siblings in the Ukraine, and prayers for peace
- Our siblings at Sojourners UCC and the entire Charlottesville, VA community after the murder and injuries of 5 student athletes.
- Our siblings at the University of Idaho after a mass murder.
- Heritage UCC as they mourn the death of Marian Finney
- The Wheats as they anticipate Cora Elizabeth's birth in early December
- John Henson – as he continues to recover from hip surgery
- Teresa Summers' friend with breast cancer
- Tiffany Summers, Teresa's daughter – expecting a baby
- Stef's brother, David, living with Alzheimer's

Call to Reconciliation

We wonder what's for lunch, we worry about work tomorrow, we fret about the test that is coming up. So much worry, so much time wasted over things we cannot

control. The One who showers earth with rain, who places the stars in the autumn sky, is the same One who wraps mercy tight around you, who feeds us on healing and hope. Let us confess how our worries keep us from trusting the God who hears us and restores us to new life. Please join me as we pray,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Because we live in this modern, tech-driven, twittering age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing. We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new computer skills, but have forgotten that life is more than a machine. We have more than we could ever use yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily.

Forgive us, Restorer of life. As you clothe us with your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little. As our hearts overflow with your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet. As you feed us with your joy and hope, may we welcome to the Table all those whose lives are filled with tears and pain. As we gather with family and friends during this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news: as God dresses creation in wonder, so you will be clothed in grace; as God pours out abundance upon the earth, so you will be blessed with peace and joy.

We don't say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy. We are blessed, for we are forgiven. Amen.

Hymn for The Church	NCH#313	<i>Like a Tree beside the Waters</i>	SILVER CREEK
		<i>~ as you are able, please stand ~</i>	
The Scripture Lesson		<i>Psalms 100</i>	Taylor Ramage, Liturgist
Anthem		<i>Take My Life and Let It Be</i>	Church Choir
		By David H. Williams	
The Homily		<i>What Prayer Shall We Pray?</i>	The Rev. Kelly M. Sisson
Reprise of Psalm 100	p. 688	<i>~ please remain seated as we respond ~</i>	

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 back of the sanctuary.

Prayer of Dedication *~congregation reads bold print~*

Our tables groan with too much food, so may our gifts feed the hungry;
we welcome family into our homes, so may we embrace the lonely;
we sleep in warm beds at night, so may we shelter the homeless;
we are blessed with more than we need, so may our gifts fill the emptiness of our sisters and brothers in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn for Thanksgiving	NCH #421	<i>We Gather Together</i>	KREMSEY
		<i>~ as you are able, please stand ~</i>	
The Sending		<i>~congregation reads bold print~</i>	
The Creator of heaven and earth sends us out,			

may we go to being help to all around us.
The Bringer of grace sends us out,
may we go to offer hope and healing to the broken.
The Spirit of peace sends us out,
may we go to bring reconciliation in all the broken places.

Postlude

+ + + + +

Worship Resources for today are adapted from:
Thom Shuman, PCUSA

+ + + + +

Last chance to order Poinsettias! Next Sunday is the deadline for us to get the order in for poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary for the last part of Advent and Christmas Eve/Day. Please fill out a form today, and turn it in to the church office with your payment.

ACTC will hold an Ecumenical Prayer Service at Thanksgiving. This lovely service will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 7 p.m. in person at Loch Raven United Methodist Church, 6622 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21239.

Next Sunday – is the first Sunday of the new year for the Christian calendar. Join us for the First Sunday of Advent as we do ‘**hanging of the greens**’ during the service. This service will replace our Monday decorating evening from years past.

Changing the Cycles is an effort to end menstrual poverty in Baltimore schools. You can be a part of this effort by bringing sanitary products and placing them in the box in the foyer beside the red wagon.

ACTC – is in need of your support. Please fill the red wagon on Sundays with donations so that we can deliver generously on Mondays. They sent this word out today: Our top 3 most needed toiletry items are:

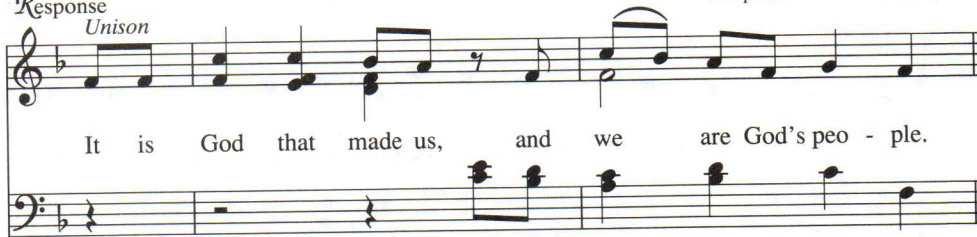
- 1) individual toothbrushes
- 2) razors
- 3) "pocket pack" tissues

Are you thinking about church membership? Pastor Kelly would welcome a conversation with you about this. Contact her at: fssuccpastor@gmail.com and let her know of your interest.

Psalm 100

Response
Unison

Antiphon: Peter Niedmann, 1994



R

¹Make a joyful noise to God,
all the earth.

²Worship God with gladness; come
into God's presence with singing.

³Know that the Sovereign is God. It
is God that made us,
and we are God's; we are God's
people, and the sheep of God's
pasture.

⁴Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and enter God's courts with praise.

Give thanks to God, and bless
God's name.

⁵For God is good; God's steadfast love
endures forever,
and God's faithfulness to all
generations. *R*

(May be sung with double tone.)

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.
 2 O - pen your-self to the song. O - pen your-self to the song.
 3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.
 4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.
 5 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joice, and come in.

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

This song, based on Psalm 100, became popular in the 1970s in the United States. It works equally well with organ, piano, or guitar accompaniment.

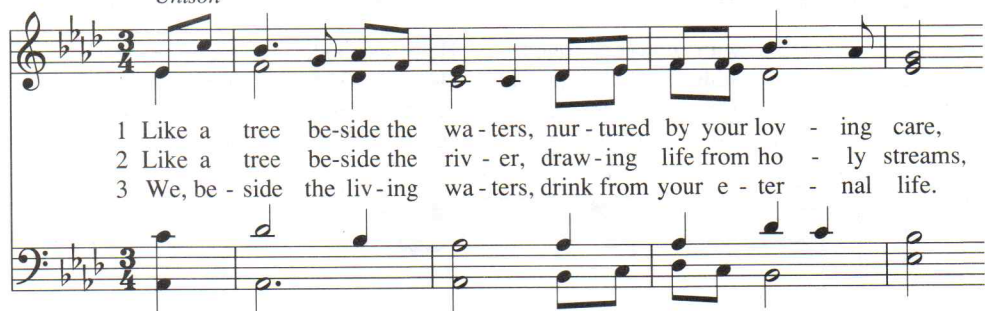
Tune: ENTER, REJOICE 7.7.8.7.
 Louise Ruspini
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

Like a Tree beside the Waters

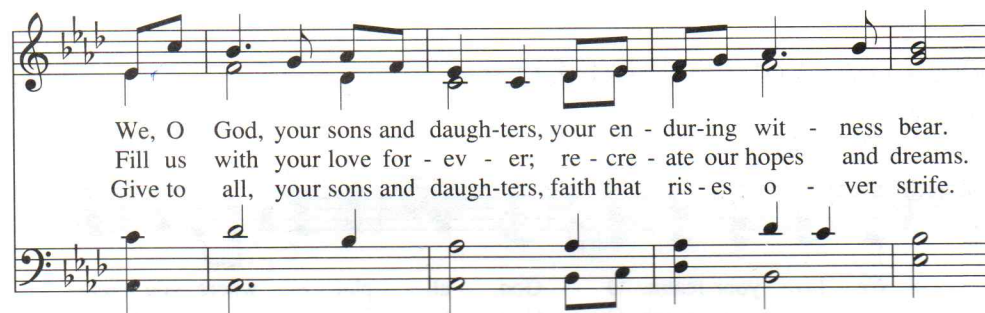
Jer. 17:7-8

Unison

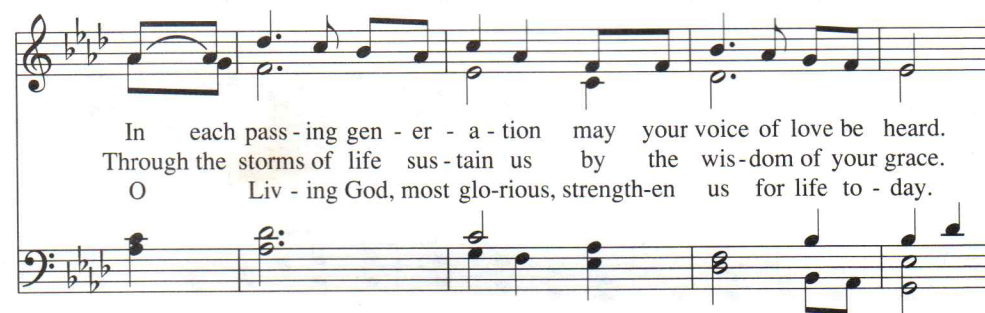
James F. D. Martin, 1992



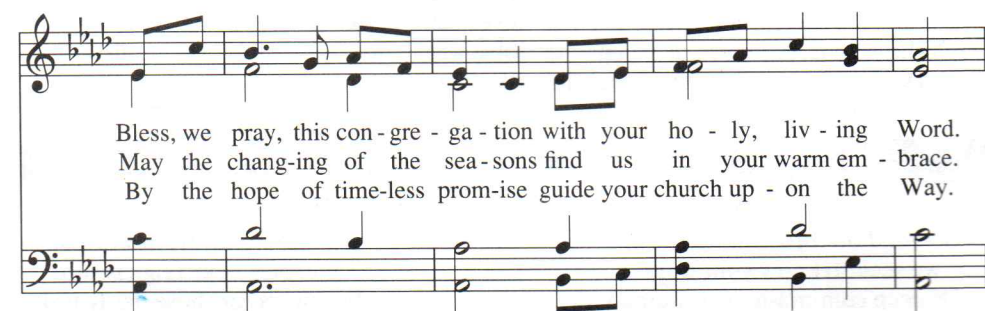
1 Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov-ing care,
 2 Like a tree be-side the riv-er, draw-ing life from ho-ly streams,
 3 We, be-side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e-ter-nal life.



We, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en-dur-ing wit-ness bear.
 Fill us with your love for-ev-er; re-cre-ate our hopes and dreams.
 Give to all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris-es o-ver strife.



In each pass-ing gen-er-a-tion may your voice of love be heard.
 Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.
 O Liv-ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to-day.



Bless, we pray, this con-gre-ga-tion with your ho-ly, liv-ing Word.
 May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm em-brace.
 By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up-on the Way.

James Martin wrote this text at the invitation of Campbellsport (Wisconsin) United Church of Christ for the celebration of its 125th anniversary year in 1993. Ordained to the United Church of Christ in 1980, Martin has served as pastor to churches in Wisconsin.

Tune: SILVER CREEK 8.7.8.7.D.
 Roy Hopp, 1989
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

We Gather Together

Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century

Transl. Theodore Baker, 1894

Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

1 We gath-er to-geth-er
to ask for God's bless-ing,
to live in com-mu-ni-ty,
seek-ing God's will.
We come now, as sis-ters
and broth-ers, con-fess-ing
the sins that di-vide
and the wrong in us still.

2 Be-side us, for-giv-ing,
en-a-bling, sus-tain-ing,
you call us, O Sav-ior,
to life that is new.
You draw us a-way
from self-cen-tered com-plain-ing.
You lead us and guide us
in ways that are true.

3 All praise to the Spir-it,
pro-vid-er, de-fend-er.
You of-fer us free-dom,
to fol-low or stray,
Em-pow-er-ing all by
the hope you en-gen-der.
Grant wis-dom and cour-age
to fol-low your way.

The original text of this hymn was one of thanksgiving for The Netherlands' independence from Spanish domination in the sixteenth century. It has been reinterpreted for contemporary congregations by United Church of Christ minister and writer Lavon Bayler.

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
16th-century Dutch melody
Arr. Edward Kremser, 1877