

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 seventh Sunday after Pentecost – Year B
The Reign of Christ Sunday
Transgender Sunday of Remembrance

November 21, 2021

10:30 a.m.



Some portions of Zoom church may be recorded to share brief clips on our webpage.

If you are visiting with us, Welcome!!

*If you are visiting online, please place your email address in the chat,
or, if you are visiting with us in person, please provide your name and email address
on a card provided in the back of the sanctuary.*

We will gladly send you the weekly Order of Worship and Announcements.

Please note that the "chat" feature will be turned off before the Gospel is read and back on at the Benediction.

Prelude "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" Nancy F. Chronister, Director of Music
arranged by Culli

Welcome and Opportunities for Ministry Rev. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Reading of The Psalms Psalm 132:1-12 Carole Haas, Liturgist

Call to Worship (congregation read **bold** print with liturgist)

We have chosen to be here, where God remembers us.

God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

Like leaves skipping over the carpet of grass:

God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

Like the first glimpses of the sun peeking over the horizon:

God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

Like the moon lighting our way on a cloudless, autumn night:

God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

Hymn for Worship "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"
~ please stand as you are able; remain masked as you sing ~

Call to Reconciliation Shuman

While there are many with power in our world - power to hurt us, power to hire or fire us, power to control us - only God has the power to forgive us and make us new people. Let us confess how we fear the power of the world, and welcome the power of God's grace.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

The choices we make, Mighty God, reveal who we are. Choosing the lies of the world, your Word has not been on our lips. Choosing independent and isolated lives, we do not reflect your Spirit in our actions towards others. Choosing to exalt the powerful of our day, we are unable to follow the One whose weakness gives us life. Forgive us, God who became weak for our sake. Do not turn your face from us, but help us to face ourselves honestly. Free us from our captivity, so we may faithfully follow Jesus Christ, our King, our Lord, our Savior.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Shout for joy, children of God! The God who was and is and is to come loves you, forgives you, and renews you.

God's Spirit rests upon us, grace and peace are the gifts of our loving God. Amen.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Sisson

- Laura Haas' mother after several falls.
- Carolyn Hart's brother, Ned, after two surgeries this past week.
- Nancy Ceisla, after surgery this week.
- The Rev. Bob Dorr, friend of Bill Ingram's, after a stroke.
- Andrew Sisson – ICU in Carilion Radford Hospital
- Anthony Carota – after another fall.
- Amanda Ajulu and her family; and Eli recovering from COVID
- Gloria Banks – living with cancer
- Stef's brother, David, living with Alzheimer's

The Sparkle Creed

(in unison)

by Rev. Rachel Small Stokes

I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural.

I believe in Jesus Christ, their child, who wore a fabulous tunic and had two dads, and who saw everyone as a sibling child of God.

I believe in the rainbow Spirit, who shatters our image of one white light and refracts it into a rainbow of gorgeous diversity.

I believe in the church of everyday saints, as numerous, creative, and resilient as patches on the AIDS quilt, whose feet are grounded in mud and whose eyes gaze at the stars in Wonder.

I believe in the calling to each of us, that love is love is love, so beloved let us love.

I believe, glorious God. Help my unbelief. Amen.

Prayers of Remembrance for Transgender and Non-binary Siblings

The Gospel Lesson

John 18:33-37

Carole Haas, Liturgist

Choir Anthem

“For the Fruits of All Creation”

by Gieseke

Homily

The Life of Royalty

Rev. Sisson

Offering Ourselves

If you would consider making an offering through on-line giving, the plate in the back of the sanctuary, or mail your check to the church address, you can find all of that information on our church web page: first-ststephens.org

Chorus

“What Does the Lord Require of You?”

Sending Forth

Rev. Sisson and Congregation

Let us go forth to serve God's children in weakness,
so others might find the strength to live.
Let us go forth as powerless as Jesus,
to empower others with hope.
Let us go forth with our arms full of the Spirit's peace,
so the world might be healed of all its brokenness.

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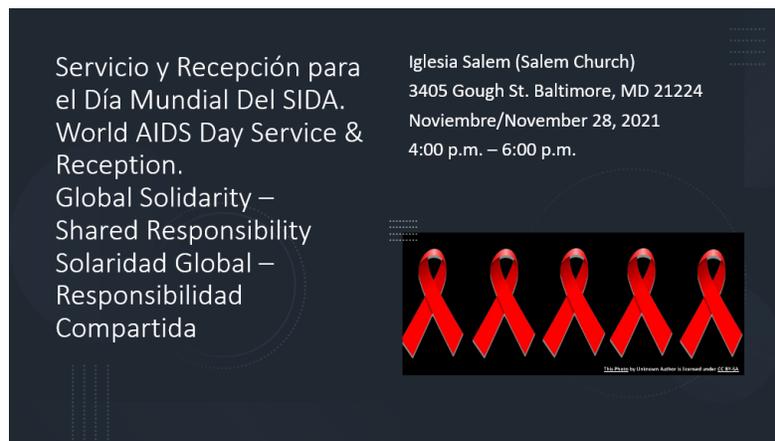
Prayer Concerns and Joys – those online who want to share a prayer concern or a joy or an update – please post it in the “chat” on Zoom.

Talk Back will be postponed today in order to review the hanging system for our fine arts gallery. Consistory, please stay after the service for a few minutes to see samples of the recommended system. Anyone is welcomed to join us for this brief viewing and discussion.

Pledge Form – <https://bit.ly/FSSpledge> is the secure pledge form for you to complete online. Only our financial administrator will see this, but it is essential to help us know how to budget for 2022. Rather than a specific Pledge Day, we are asking those who claim First and St. Stephen’s as their spiritual home to initiate how they might support the ministries here financially. Please complete this form by the end of the month. Note: You will need to answer the first question (i.e. Your Name) in order to access the rest of the form.

Poinsettias – The order form for holiday poinsettias in honor or memory is available today. Please get those forms completed and returned as soon as possible so that we can adorn the sanctuary for the season.

Next Sunday: The First Sunday of Advent and World AIDS Sunday



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: fssuccpastor@gmail.com

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 fssuccpastor@gmail.com

Worship Resources today come from:
Thom Shuman, PCUSA.
Rev. Rachel Small Stokes
Wild Goose Publications

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given

The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839
Alternate tune: RICHMOND