

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  
Fourth Sunday in Eastertide - Year C

May 11, 2025

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

*Prelude*  
by Rachmaninoff,  
arranged by Edward Broughton Opus 25, No.4

Nancy Flandermeyer Chronister, Director of Music

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Lesson from the Psalms

*Psalms 23*

Nikki Balding, Liturgist

Congregational Introit VU #280

*Mother and God*

(see insert)

*~please remain seated~*

Call to Worship

(congregation reads **bold print**)

Frayed and frazzled, our lives jangling with tension and anxiety,

**we gather to find that place of peace which God offers to us.**

Awash in worries and doubts, drowning in a sea of fears,

**we gather beside the still waters where Jesus offers us a cup of grace.**

Weakened by the burdens of life, wandering as if lost in a wilderness,

**we gather so the Spirit can restore our souls and show us the path to the kingdom.**

Hymn for Worship NCH #42 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

*~ as you are able, please stand ~*

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

*Remember these known joys and concerns:*

- Pope Leo XIV as he assumes his responsibilities
- Bryce – after a kidney transplant
- McKenzie Shaw – living with chronic pain
- Corrie Bates and her family
- Jen's friend, Andrew and his family
- Peace in our world, our country, our community

*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.*

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn for Easter NCH #252 *Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

*~ as you are able, please stand ~*

Lesson from the Scriptures

*Acts 9:36-43*

Nikki Balding, Liturgist

The Anthem

*The Lord Is My Shepherd*

Choir

by Natalie Sleeth

The Message

*Lessons from Tabitha's Tribe*

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](http://first-ststephens.org) You may also place your offering in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. Or, you may use the QR Code in this bulletin. Thank you.

Dedicating our Offerings (congregation reads **bold print**)

**There are those who have no place to rest, may our gifts provide shelter. There are those who are parched for justice, may our generosity quench their thirst. There are those who wander the streets alone and afraid, may our blessings provide a way. There are those who are in the valleys of suffering, may offer ourselves as companions on the journey. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn for Sending VU #195

*Children of God* by James F.D. Martin  
~ as you are able, please stand ~

(see insert)

Benediction

Postlude

+ + + + +

Worship Resources for today are adapted from:

Thom Shuman, PCUSA

Amy Young

**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 join us for coffee after the service in the Gathering Room behind the sanctuary.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** – After the service, is the next listening session to hear reports and discuss the future of our church.

**Zoom Help Needed** – Can you help with our Zoom ministry? We need some volunteers to be trained to help with our on-line presence on Sunday mornings when Sharon and Mike are not available. If you would like to make a difference in this way, please see Sharon Barr or Mike Chronister.

**Save your Bubble Wrap** – If you receive packages at home that are wrapped in bubble wrap, please bring the bubble wrap to the box in the foyer and it will be repurposed by Zach Langdon-Kennedy, our artist-in-residence.

**ACTC** is asking for any non-perishable food items. For April, please bring **soups and bottled water**. Place items in the red wagon in the foyer so they may be delivered weekly.

**Changing the Cycles** – please bring **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.

### Church Staff

Kelly M. Sisson **Pastor** fssuccpastor@gmail.com (540)230-6903  
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### Consistory for 2025

Amanda Ajulu – President amandamajulu@yahoo.com  
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