

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 the Epiphany – Year C

January 19, 2025

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

Nancy Flandermeyer Chronister, Director of Music

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship

~ congregation reads **bold print** ~

We come in these endless days, Precious God, people in need of the constancy of your love:
may we drink deeply from your fountain of life; may we continue to be guided by your Light.

We gather in these weary days, Water-changing God, people looking for signs of hope and wonder:

may we drink deeply from your fountain of grace; may our weariness be wrapped in your Hope.

We worship in these overwhelming days, Gifting God, people who try to point others to Jesus:

may we drink deeply from your fountain of joy; may our life be strengthened by your Life.

Hymn of Praise NCH #4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

HYMN TO JOY

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Lesson from the Christian Scriptures

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Liturgist

Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Peace in our world, our country, our community
- Those impacted by the fires in Los Angeles, CA
- Israel and Hamas as they move towards a ceasefire
- The United States as there is a peaceful transfer of power tomorrow
- Nancy Chronister's father
- Doug and Anthony
- Laura Weaver-Haas' mother after hip surgery
- Nancy Ciesla's brother
- Lisa Kennedy – knee injury
- Jen's friend, Andrew and his family
- 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.

Prayers of the People

Kumbaya is a creole phrase meaning "Come by here." It was sung by slaves from West Africa who were transported coastal regions and islands of South Carolina and Georgia, USA and became the Gullah-Geechee people. It is an appeal to God to come and help when people call out in need. It was recorded by folk music collectors in the 1920s, becoming very popular during the Folk music revival of the 1950s and 1960s (think The Seekers, Pete Seeger, and Peter Paul and Mary), which then brought it to church camp fireside sing-a-longs. There has been a lot of effort in the past 20 or so years by the Gullah-Geechee community to reclaim this song as part of their heritage.

This song provides a good example of how songs are colonized and disempowered as they become favorites of the dominant community (white people) who "discover" and reinvent the music. Rather than singing it as a sentimental favorite (or with eye-rolling) lets sing it with people who were, and continue to be enslaved, of the harm that colonization has done, and of our need for reconciliation. "Oh Lord, Kumbayah."

Kumbayah, my Lord, Kumbayah! Kumbayah, my Lord, Kumbayah!
Kumbayah, my Lord, Kumbayah! Oh, Lord, Kumbayah!
Someone's crying, Lord, Kumbayah!
Someone's praying, Lord, Kumbayah!
Someone's singing, Lord, Kumbayah!

Hymn for Epiphany	NCH #163	<i>Many Are the Lightbeams</i> ~ as you are able, please stand ~	LIGHTBEAMS
Scripture Lesson		<i>John 2:1-11</i>	Liturgist
Anthem		<i>There Is More Love Somewhere</i> Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Adam and Matt Podd	Choir
Message			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 in this bulletin.

Dedicating our Offerings *(congregation reads bold print)*

Sometimes, we believe the gifts we offer do not matter. But when they are combined with all the other gifts – of healing, of hope, of compassion, of your heart – they can become rivers of grace and justice flowing through the lives of everyone around us. We offer our gifts to you in this hope, as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn for Sending	NCH #588	<i>Let Justice Flow Like Streams</i> ~ as you are able, please stand ~	ST. THOMAS
Benediction			
Postlude			

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Worship Resources are adapted from:
Mike Moyers, cover artist. *Water into Wine*.
Thom Shuman, PCUSA

Church Office (410) 377-5224

WiFi Password: ONAcomma

Church Office Hours – noon to 5p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

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.

To Make an Offering Now



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to those providing for **coffee hour**:

Today - Corrie Bates

January 26th - Beth and Tim Wheat

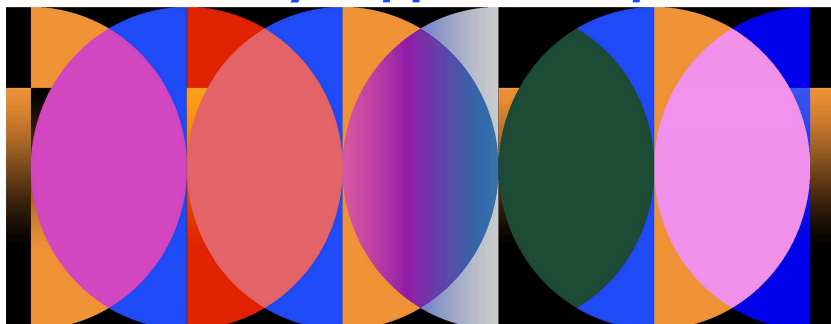
Annual Church Meeting – Next Sunday, January 26th immediately after the morning worship service.

ACTC is asking for any non-perishable food items. For January, please bring **canned soups**. 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.

How well do you know what's in the Bible? Would you like to know more about the contents of the Bible? This is your opportunity. Bill Ingram is leading a study using the book "Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know" by Timothy Beal. Sessions are online at 7pm on alternate Mondays until Monday, March 17. You will need a copy of the book, which can be obtained from Amazon. Please let Bill know if you plan to attend the class. (william.ingram@gmail.com).

Trans Family Support Group



Please join us!

What? A safe space for **family of trans/non-binary people** to help us support each other and our family members.

When? We meet at **7pm** on the **Third Tuesday** of each month

Where? In the Gathering Room of **First and St Stephens** (United Church of Christ)

6915 York Rd Baltimore 21212

Do you have any questions? email Ljoellen@verizon.net

Church Staff

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Consistory for 2025

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