

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 after the Epiphany – Year C

February 2, 2025

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

*The Quiet Church*

Nancy Flandermyer Chronister, Director of Music

by Mark Fax

*Mark Fax was a native of Baltimore, where he served at Howard University as Acting Dean of Fine Arts, and was subsequently appointed to Director of the School of Music, a position he held until his death in 1974. This piece is included in the African-American Organ Music Anthology, a series designed to celebrate music representing African-American men and women who wrote for the organ during the mid to late 20th century.*

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship

~ congregation reads **bold print** ~

With powerful words and dramatic gestures, with a quiet conversation and a gentle touch,  
**we respond to God's call to offer healing and hope to our world.**

With courage to face the injustices around us, with the willingness to go into the brokenness,  
**we fulfill the call of Jesus to engage in faithful obedience.**

With the patience of a teacher of six-year-olds, with the gentleness of a nurse helping a patient,  
**we become the Spirit's refuge for all who live in worry and fear.**

Hymn of Praise NCH #87

*O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

SPLENDOR PATERNAE

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Scripture Lesson

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*

John Henson, Liturgist

Our Joys and Concerns

*Remember these known joys and concerns:*

- Peace in our world, our country, our community
- Families of victims in the DC plane crash
- Those impacted by the fires in Los Angeles, CA
- Palestine and Israel as they continue to live out a ceasefire agreement.
- Those living in fear as government mandates are issued.
- The Family of Carl Flandermyer
- Corrie Bates and her family
- Doug and Anthony – recovering from COVID
- Laura Weaver-Haas' mother
- Nancy Ciesla's brother
- 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.*

Calling of the Spirit MV #25 (see insert) *O God, Send Out Your Spirit*  
~ please remain seated ~

### Call to Reconciliation

Arrogance, envy, harsh words, empty hands, pleasure in doing what we know is wrong – these are what we often use to fill our lives. Let us confess in faith, trusting in the hope that God’s love restores us and makes us whole. Please join me, praying,

### Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

**Ah, Lord God, we do not know how to speak words of hope, because we listen to the purveyors of fear. We do not know how to be loving because our role models are ridicule and anger. We do not know how to be faithful to you, because at an early age, we learned to trust the promises of all the false prophets who entice us with their simple thoughts.**

**But you know how to forgive, God of kindness, so we pray you would pour out your mercy upon us. May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as you have served us; may hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace; may love abide in us, not only in these moments of brokenness, but in every moment of our life with Jesus Christ, who abides in us.**

*Silence is kept*

### Assurance of Pardon

The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives. In God’s forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.

**In God’s acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Scripture Lesson

*1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

John Henson, Liturgist

### Anthem

The Gift of Love

Choir

by Hal Hopson

### Message

*A Lesson from our Ancestors*

Rev. Sisson

### Communion Hymn VU #460

*All Who Hunger* (see insert)

HOLY MANNA

~ as you are able, please stand ~

### The Welcoming Table

*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 wish to respond to come forward and share the bread and the cup. In the spirit of inclusion, the cup is non-alcoholic. There is a gluten-free option for the bread.*

### 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 in this bulletin.

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

**We do not need to speak in tongues, but to offer words of encouragement. We do not have to be know-it-alls, but those who work to lift the burdens off those around us. We do not need to give everything, but we will join our gifts with those of others to reach out, in love, to those who have nothing. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

### Hymn for Sending NCH #2

*Glory, Glory, Hallelujah*

GLORY, GLORY

~ as you are able, please stand ~

### Benediction

### Postlude

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Worship Resources are adapted from:  
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 - Jen Langdon

## Gallery Opening Reception – TODAY – noon – 2p.m.

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

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## Consistory for 2025

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