*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**

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – Year C**

February 9, 2025 10:30 a.m.



Prelude *Night Song* Nancy Flandermyer Chronister, Director of Music

by David Hurd

***David Hurd****(born 1950) is a*[*composer*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composer)*, concert*[*organist*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organist)*, choral director and educator.*

*Dr. Hurd was Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Chapel Music at the*[*General Theological Seminary*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Theological_Seminary)*,*[*Chelsea*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea%2C_Manhattan)*,*[*New York City*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City)*, for 39 years. He was also the Music Director at the Church of the Holy Apostles, also in Chelsea, until May 2013. He is presently the Director of Music at the*[*Church of St. Mary the Virgin (Manhattan)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_St._Mary_the_Virgin_%28Manhattan%29)*in* [*Times Square*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Times_Square)*, New York City.*

*This piece is included in The African-American Organ Anthology, a series celebrating 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*** *~*

It is by grace that we are who we are:

**people who are called by Jesus, yet fearful to follow.**

It is by God's grace that we can become followers:

**people who are fearful yet gifted with courage beyond wonder.**

It is with God's grace that we become who we might be:

**people who step out in faith, sharing the good news generously.**

Hymn of Praise NCH #277 *Holy, Holy, Holy*      NICEA

 *~ as you are able, please stand ~*

Scripture Lesson *Isaiah 6:1-13* Karen Lovelace,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.

 - Bill Ingram

 - Rachel Ezell’s friend, Susan, in ICU

 - Corrie Bates and her family

 - Doug and Anthony

 - 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

It is so simple to say, yet so difficult to live out - 'do not be afraid!' Yet, whatever fear burdens us, God will lift from our souls. Whatever foolishness we have uttered, God whispers mercy to us. Whatever wrong we have done, God's forgiveness is poured out upon us. I invite you to join with me as we pray to the One whose love is constant in every moment, in every place, of our lives.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

   **God of wonder and joy, we look in the mirror and do not see holiness reflected back. We long to be sisters and brothers with others, but don't want to be an intrusion in our friends' lives. We yearn to be more compassionate, yet it is often spite and malice we offer to someone else. We are so busy listening to those internal i-pods, that we have trouble hearing the cries of loneliness coming from those around us.**

**Forgive us, God who longs to be enthroned in our hearts. You call us to different lives, so we might make a difference for all who hurt. You invite us into your kingdom, so we might show the others the way. You challenge us to take a risk by following Jesus, so we might become your children once again.**

*Silence is observed*

**Assurance of Pardon**

The One who alone is Holy became wholly human so we might see the face of grace. The One who is seated in the heavens endured the cross so we might see the face of salvation. This is our good news: we are forgiven!

**By God's grace, with God's grace, we are who we are meant to be: forgiven, restored, called people. Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Choral Response  NCH #775   *And God Will Raise You Up*    Michael Joncas

*~ please remain seated ~*

Scripture Lesson in Song NCH #504  *You Walk Along Our Shoreline*    SALLEY GARDENS

*~ as you are able, please stand ~*

Scripture Lesson *Luke 5:1-11* Karen Lovelace, Liturgist

Anthem  *My Hope Is in You*      Choir

 by Nan Allen, Dennis Allen

Message *A New Thing* 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 sanctuary. Or, you may use the QR Code in this bulletin.

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

**God who alone is holy, we offer our gifts, our lives, our compassion, our service to others, and to your creation. Bless all that we offer, so that we might be blessings of hope, peace, and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn for Commitment *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*  Spiritual

*~ as you are able, please stand ~*

Benediction

Postlude

**+ + + + +**

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**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.

The assigned reading for the **Biblical Literacy Class** for tomorrow night (Monday, 2/10) is the section on the historical books through Esther. The class meets from 7pm to 8:30pm. The Zoom link will be emailed to the class members tomorrow. If you're interested in joining the class, contact Bill Ingram (william.ingram@gmail.com) for details.

**Save these dates:**

 Sunday, March 2 – Gallery Opening and Reception for “Our Bodies; Our Stories”

 Tuesday, March 4 – Mardi GrAsh – 6-8p.m. “Come for the Feast; Stay for the Ashes”

**Consistory** meets this Wednesday at 6:30pm

**Church Staff**

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**Consistory for 2025**

Amanda Ajulu – President amandamajulu@yahoo.com

Emily Perl – Vice President emilyperl78@gmail.com

Jen Langdon – Treasurer jenjele@gmail.com

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Carol Berman - carolberman1302@gmail.com

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Nancy Chronister – Member at Large nancyfc88@comcast.net

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