The Service of Worship

Join us on Zoom!

All Saints Day

November 1, 2026 10:30am

FIRST & ST. STEPHEN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE

6915 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

First & St. Stephen's UCC is proud to be an Open and Affirming congregation.

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 after the service.

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

"Prelude on
'Deo Gracias'"
by Brenda Portman

Welcome and Announcements

Emily Perl

Call to Worship

Rev. Terry Fitzgerald

One: We come from near and far, in person and online, to worship God.

All: We come preoccupied, focused, joyful, sad.

One: We bring with us our neighbors, those we walk and drive past, known and visible.

All: We bring with us our neighbors who are strangers, unknown, invisible, yet neighbors.

One: We come remembering those who have gone before us, our beloved family and friends.

All: We come remembering those unknown to us, who by their lives, and by their deaths, have done God's work in the world.

One: We are here today to remember and celebrate.

All: We are here today to be community, to worship God together.

Hymn

"For The Faithful Who Have Answered"
NCH #384
OMNI DIE

Scripture Reading

Psalm 34:1-10, 22
Response: NCH p. 644
read by Rev. Terry Fitzgerald, Liturgist

Hymn

"For All the Saints"
NCH #299 (verses 1, 3)
SINE NOMINE

Naming The Saints with Candle-Lighting

Responsive Reading, from *Gates of Prayer*, by Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer (see insert for list of names)

One: In the rising of the sun and at its going down

All: We remember them.

One: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter

All: We remember them.

One: In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring

All: We remember them.

One: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer

All: We remember them.

One: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn

All: We remember them.

One: In the beginning of the year and when it ends

All: We remember them.

One: When we are weary and in need of strength

All: We remember them.

One: When we are lost and sick at heart

All: We remember them.

One: When we have joys we yearn to share

All: We remember them.

One: As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us, as

All: We remember them.

Anthem

"Shall We Gather At The River?"
setting by John Carter, transcribed by
Craig Courtney

Proclaiming the Word

The Gospel:

Matthew 5:1-12 read by Rev. Terry Fitzgerald, Liturgist

The Message

Rev. Cynthia Terry

Silence

Responding to the Word

Sharing Our Joys, Concerns, and Prayers

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

NCH p. 9

Dedication of Our Gifts and Offerings

NCH #781

The Gathering Table

Hymn

"Jesus Is Here Right Now"
NCH #348
JESUS IS HERE

One: "Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst."
All: "In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life giving bread."

One: "Holy God, Our loving Creator, close to us as breathing, and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and for Jesus Christ, whom you sent from your own being as our Savior. We thank you for the Risen Christ, for calling forth your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the family of your people throughout the Earth.

Response

"Oh God, Send Out Your Spirit"

(see insert)

Sharing the Elements

One: "Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless us all in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and all humans we encounter on our journey."

We believe that the invitation to this table comes not from any church or individual, but from Jesus. We invite all who hear and wish to respond to share the bread and the cup. There is a gluten free option for bread, and the cup is alcohol free.

One: Come, for all things are ready. We will gather in a circle and pass the elements to one another. Please hold the bread and we will eat together; and again, hold the cup and we will drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give thanks, oh God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth with courage and peace, rejoicing in all ways. Amen

Going Forth

Hymn

"O God We Give Thanks" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
(see insert)
ASH GROVE

Benediction
led by Rev. Cynthia Terry

Postlude

Make an Offering Now

Pastor

Rev. Cynthia Terry

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Director of Music

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nancyfc88@comcast.net

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General Contact for Church Questions

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Worship Team for Sunday Planning

worshipteamfssucc@gmail.com

Upcoming Sundays/Services:

Nov 8 - sandwich making Sunday
Nov 15 - worship
Nov 22 - discussion related to mission
Nov 29 marks the beginning of Advent, which we observe for 4 Sundays
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve service, prelude beginning at 6:45 pm and service to start at 7 pm