

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
The First Sunday in Lent – Year C

March 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.



Prelude *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* Nancy Flandermeyer Chronister,
By Marilyn Thompson Director of Music

Welcome The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship (congregation reads **bold print**)

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

Hymn for Worship NCH #72 *Sekai no Tomo* TOKYO
~ as you are able, please stand ~

Prayers of the People

Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Peace in our world, our country, our community
- Asher Jacob Adler, born Feb. 18 to Chelsea Haas Adler
- DeAnn Weaver-Haas – kidney stones
- Bill Ingram in Future Care at Coldspring
- Corrie Bates and her family
- 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.

Hymn for Lament MV #65 (see insert) *When We Are Tested* WHEN WE ARE TESTED
~ as you are able, please stand ~

Call to Reconciliation

God makes no distinction between us. We are all flawed, we are all children of God, we are all precious to God, and we are all saved by God. Because God is so impartial, let us confess our common humanity to the One who is generous to all.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. Your people, we treat the strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We afflict our anger on those who care about us the most. We impose hard words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives.

So now we bring our hearts to you, Generous God, setting them down before you in hopes that you will mend them. As you hear our faltering words, we pray you would answer us with your forgiving love. And as you forgive us, may we go forth to be generous with our lives towards others, even as the one who is Lord of all, Jesus Christ, has been so generous to us. *Silence is kept*

Assurance of Pardon

As you have confessed, do you so believe? The good news is that there is nothing we do that can conquer us, for we are sheltered in God's gracious mercy and hope.

This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our life.

Prayer Response

Kyrie (see insert)

GUARANI

Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Richard Arrington, Liturgist

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)

From all the places where we derive a living, we offer you our gifts, God of grace, so they might become part of all the fruits of hope and of healing, of peace and patience, which you give to others throughout the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 4:1-13

Richard Arrington, Liturgist

The Anthem

Kyrie

Choir

Based on "Largo" from Symphony No. 9
By Antonin Dvorak, Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram

The Message

The Wilderness Journey

Rev. Sisson

Hymn for Sending

NCH #530 *God Our Author and Creator*

JEFFERSON

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Benediction

Postlude

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Worship Resources for today are adapted from:

Cover Art – Briton Riviere, 1898
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

Gallery Hours Today ~ noon to 2p.m.

“Our Bodies, Our Stories”

in partnership with Reproductive Justice of Maryland

ACTC is asking for any non-perishable food items. For March, please bring **hot and cold cereals**. 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.

Consistory meets this Wednesday at 6p.m.

Church Staff

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Consistory for 2025

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