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 Palm Sunday – Year C

April 13, 2025

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

Welcome

Grand Jeu Nancy Flandermyer Chronister, Director of Music by Louis Antoine Dornel

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship

(congregation reads **bold print**)

On this day of palms and celebration, Jesus continues his journey with God.

We will go with him, for a while, until he turns towards Calvary.

From the top of Olive Mountain, Jesus prepares to travel through the valley of heartache and loss.

We will follow Jesus, for a while, cradling hope in our hearts.

In the streets of Jerusalem, Jesus hears the cries of those who adore him.

We will shout Jesus' name, for a while, until we cry out, "Crucify him!"

Hymn for Worship NCH # 213

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna ~ as you are able, please stand ~

ELLACOMBE

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Bryce after a kidney transplant
- Richard and Nate Arrington
- McKenzie Shaw living with chronic pain
- Corrie Bates and her family
- Martha Wharton surgery on 04/24
- Jen's friend, Andrew and his family
- Peace in our world, our country, our community

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.

	Invitation to the Parade	SPandP	#132	Pave The Way With Branch	e
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(see insert, verse 1)

Bret Hesla

(congregation makes their way around the circle of signs and palms)

Kyrie (see insert)

(in unison)

GUARANI

Rev. Sisson

The Lord's Prayer (by Neil Douglas-Klotz)

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos

Focus your light within us - make it useful.

Create your reign of unity now

Call to Prayer

Prayers of the People

Through our fiery hearts and willing hands

Help us love beyond our ideals

and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other. Don't let surface things delude us, But free us from what holds us back from our true purpose. Out of you, the astonishing fire, Returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen. Hymn for Awe NCH #223 What Wondrous Love Is This WONDROUS LOVE ~ as you are able, please stand ~ Luke 19:28-40 Gospel Lesson Beth Wheat, Liturgist The Anthem Blessed Is He Who Comes Choir by Pepper Choplin The Message Activism: Then and Now 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 back of the sanctuary. Or, you may use the QR Code in this bulletin. Thank you.

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

Turn our palm branches into food for the hungry, turn the nails we hide behind our backs into justice for the forgotten, turn our shouts of joy into whispers of compassion for the broken. Turn our gifts into the hope, the grace, the life others need. Amen.

Hymn for Sending SPandP #132 Pave The Way With Branches Bret Hesla (see insert, sing all verses) ~ as you are able, please stand ~

Benediction Postlude

> + + + + + Worship Resources for today are adapted from: Thom Shuman, PCUSA Neil Douglas-Klotz C. Welton Gaddy, AoB

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

Thursday, April 17th, 7p.m. – Maundy Thursday Service April 20th, 10:30 a.m. – Easter Sunday

Order your Easter Flowers Today! – If you want to place flowers in the sanctuary for Easter, please fill out the order form and make your payment today. Lilies are \$11; tulips are \$10 and come in red, yellow, white, purple.

Save your Bubble Wrap – If you receive packages at home that are wrapped in bubble wrap, please bring the bubble wrap to the box in the foyer and it will be repurposed by Zach Langdon-Kennedy, our artist-in-residence.

Yard Sale! The Stoneleigh Yard Sale is Sat April 26th, 9am-12pm. Please look through your closets, garage etc. for items to donate to the FSS tables that we'll set up at 7007 York Rd. Plan to bring donations that morning by 8am if possible. PLEASE DO NOT BRING ITEMS TO THE CHURCH, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR STORAGE. Items that typically go quickly: tools, small appliances, sporting gear, camping equipment, bikes. Bring whatever you are ready to part with, and what doesn't sell we'll donate to Goodwill. For info, contact Lois at <u>ljoellen@verizon.net</u>, Kevin at <u>Kevin@jpar5star.com</u>, or Jason at jason@jpar5star.com.

ACTC is asking for any non-perishable food items. For April, please bring **bottled water and canned meats.** 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 Office (410) 377-5224

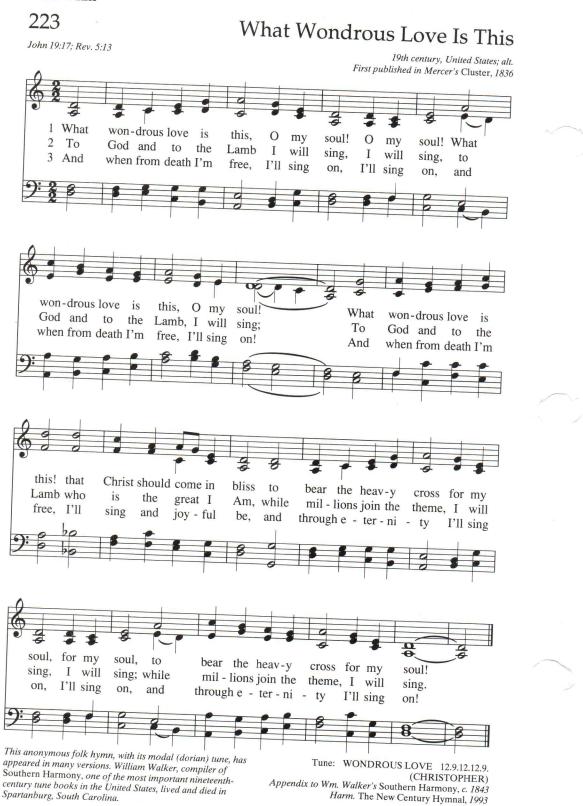
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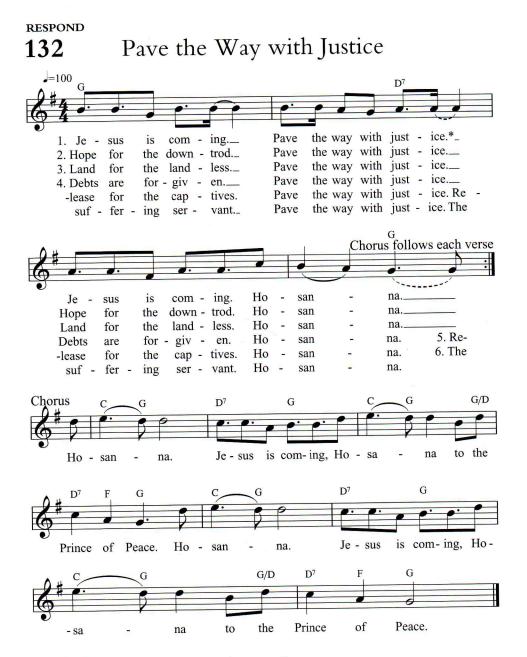
Church Staff

Kelly M. Sisson **Pastor** fssuccpastor@gmail.com (540)230-6903 Nancy Chronister **Director of Music** nancyfc88@comcast.net (610)724-6096 Alex Vishio **Theologian at Large** avishio@mail.smu.edu Zach Langdon-Kennedy **Artist in Residence** tinnatupaws@gmail.com Mario Cardenas **Administrative and Financial Assistant** fss.church.ofc@gmail.com (410)377-5224 Renard Noble **Properties Caregiver** (410) 419-5199

Consistory for 2025

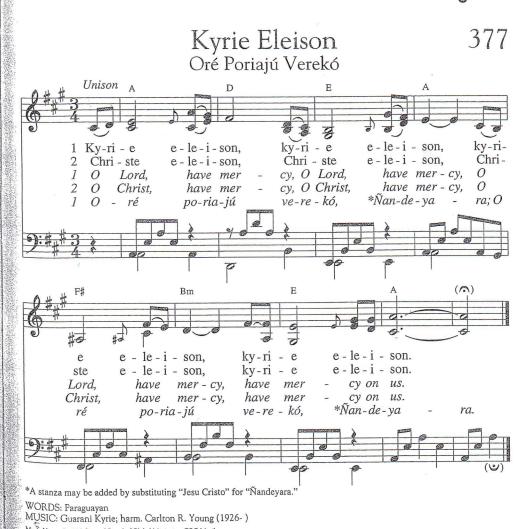
Amanda Ajulu – President amandamajulu@yahoo.com Emily Perl – Vice President emilyper178@gmail.com Jen Langdon – Treasurer jenjele@gmail.com Tim Wheat – Secretary - wtwheat@gmail.com Carol Berman - carolberman1302@gmail.com Bill Ingram – william.ingram@gmail.com Nancy Ciesla - nciesla62@gmail.com Nancy Chronister – Member at Large nancyfc88@comcast.net Kelly Sisson – Ex-Officio - fssuccpastor@gmail.com HOLY WEEK





*For Palm Sunday, substitute "branches" for "justice."

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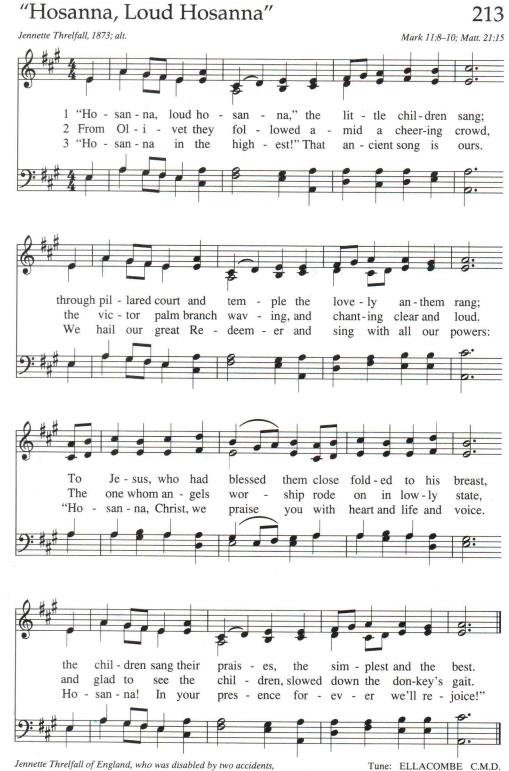


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PALM/PASSION SUNDAY



Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection Sunshine and Shadow. Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D. Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784