

Use the following worship guide as we gather on Sunday morning via Zoom. Simply click here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2398495210>

The Service of Worship
First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ
Baltimore, Maryland
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - Year C

August 31, 2025

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

Nancy Chronister, Director of Music

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship

~congregation please read **bold print**~

We come to worship our God, to listen to the One who calls us here.

We come trusting God to lead us in the coming days, as surely as were our grandparents in the faith.

We come to worship our God, to shout with joy to the God of all people.

We come to the Creator of all things, to be bathed in the waters of life.

We come to the Feast of God's faithful, to be fed by the One who never forsakes us.

We come to worship our God, to sing aloud to the One who saves us.

Hymn for Worship NCH #459 *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Liturgist

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Annunciation Church and School in Minneapolis after mass shooting
- Andrew Sisson – after hospitalization this week
- Laura Weaver-Haas – neck pain
- McKenzie Shaw – living with chronic pain
- Jen's friend, Andrew and his family
- Andrew's father recovering from a broken hip
- 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.

Silence is Observed

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sisson

Congregational Prayer Response NCH #772 *Nothing Can Trouble*

Jacques Berthier

Scripture Lesson

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Liturgist

Congregational Anthem

Come In, Come In and Sit Down

Congregation

~ see insert ~

The Message

Rebranding Hospitality

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.

Prayer of Dedication

~congregation reads **bold print**~

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we are offered opportunities to reach out to those who are in need of hope, healing, and friendship. This is why you pour out your blessings upon us, trusting that we will share from our abundance to bless others, even as we have been blessed. Receive the gifts we offer, multiply them, and use them in the work of grace and justice. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn for Sending NCH #309

We Are Your People
~ as you are able, please stand ~

WHITFIELD

Benediction

Postlude

+ + + + +

Worship Resources for today are adapted from:
Thom Shuman

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.

ACTC is asking for any non-perishable food items. For August, in addition to food, please bring **school supplies**. Place items in the red wagon in the foyer so they may be delivered weekly. There has been a specific request for **individually packaged fruit cups**. For September, we will be collecting **cereal** and continuing to bring **fruit cups**.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, September 7th – Communion service; then, we will go into business session and the Consistory will present a variety of options to be considered as the church decides its next steps. The congregation will be asked to hear these recommendations and decide which steps to explore.

Sunday, September 14th – Baptism of Avery Prescott

Sunday, September 21st – Pastor Kelly's last Sunday and Service of Release

Sunday, October 12th – The church will vote regarding the recommendation of next steps.

Church Office (410) 377-5224

WiFi Password: ONAcomma

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