

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
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Year C

August 3, 2025

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

Freu Dich Sele
by Gerald Near

Nancy Chronister, Director of Music

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship

~congregation please read **bold print**~

God of the past who whispered in the prophets' ears; who rescued us from sin's slavery:
we are here to thank you.

God of the future, who is tearing down the old world, and building your kingdom in our midst:

we are here because we trust you.

God of the present who, in the giftedness of our diversity, creates us to be one people:
we are here to praise you.

God of life that surprises us when we find it within us:
we celebrate your grace.

Hymn for Worship NCH #332

As We Gather at Your Table
~ as you are able, please stand ~

BEACH SPRING

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Remember these known joys and concerns:

- Renard Noble – returning to work tomorrow
- 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

Scripture Lesson

Luke 12:13-21

Liturgist

The Message

Life before Death

Rev. Sisson

Anthem

Communion Medley

Jesus Loves Me with Jesus Is Here Right Now

Arranged by Nancy Chronister

Please turn to NCH #348 and join in!

The Welcoming Table

*We believe that the invitation to this table comes not from any church or individual, but from Jesus. We therefore invite in Christ's name **all** who hear that invitation and wish to respond to come forward and share the bread and the cup. In the spirit of inclusion, the cup is non-alcoholic. There is a gluten-free option for the bread.*

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**~*

**We offer not only our gifts, Compassionate God,
but our time, so we might spend more moments with the lonely;
our words, so the voiceless might be healed;
our hands, that the hungry might be fed;
our hearts, so that the rejected might find a home.
We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn for Sending NCH #562

Take My Gifts

TALVERA TERRACE

~ as you are able, please stand ~

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**.

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

Donate Here:

