

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year C

September 25, 2022

10:30 a.m.



*If you are visiting online, please place your email address in the chat.  
We will gladly send you the weekly Order of Worship and Announcements.*

Prelude

Nancy Chronister, Director of Music

Welcome

Rev. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Call to Worship Litany

(Congregation reads **bold**)

Come and be held in the presence of the One who shelters and befriends!

Though others may pass by without noticing,

**each life captures the loving attention of God.**

Though there are gates that ostracize and fences that turn away,

**God opens Their arms to every aching body and reaches for the isolated and alone.**

Though resources are hoarded and creation groans beneath us,

**God will raise up those who believe in justice and deliver us from the clutches of evil.**

Thanks be to God who brings us into Life Abundant.

Lesson from the Psalms

*Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16*

Choir and

Congregation

MV #214 *May God's Sheltering Wings* (see insert)

Judith Snowdon

Hymn for Worship NCH #1 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Sisson

*Please remember these shared concerns:*

- Our siblings in the Ukraine, and prayers for peace
- Our siblings in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Fiona
- Deanna Weaver-Haas' family after the death of her uncle
- Karen Lovelace
- Tiffany Summers, Teresa's daughter – expecting a baby
- Amanda Ajulu and her family
- Stef's brother, David, living with Alzheimer's

Call to Reconciliation

In God's presence, our lives are exposed, our words are shown for their hollowness, our need is revealed. Let us confess who we are, as we ask God to embrace us with

grace and hope.

#### Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

We need to confess, God of Abraham and Lazarus, how often we are not content with the simple gifts and lives you offer. Tempted by everything, we can become insensitive to those who have nothing. Encouraged by the world to accumulate more, we may miss the chance to gather your goodness and godliness. Chasing after all which has no value, we may not have the energy to pursue the faith, the love, the gentleness you have for us.

Forgive us, God of Reversals. You have sent the One who speaks the words we need to listen to in order to have life. Help us to remember how you have redeemed us, and in remembering, may we make that good confession that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, now and forever.

*Silence is kept*

#### Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news that comes from God: I will hear your prayers, I will answer with hope and peace, I will deliver you from your sins.

God has covered us with grace; under God's hope we will find shelter. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn for Praise    NCH #436    *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

*~ as you are able, please stand ~*

The Scripture Lesson

*Luke 16:19-31*

John Henson, Liturgist

Anthem

*Come And Find The Quiet Center*

Church Choir

Anne Krentz Organ and Shirley Erena Murray

*Congregation please join on the third verse. See insert.*

The Homily

*Chasms or Bridges?*

Rev. Sisson

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](http://first-ststephens.org) You may also place your offering in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary.

#### Prayer of Dedication

*~congregation reads **bold print**~*

God of our ancestors, bless these offerings to the work of your prophets: The ones who remind us who we are and what we are capable of. The ones who reveal what is true. The ones who point us to a world where none go hungry, none are pushed to the edges, and none are treated as anything less than your beloveds. May their testimonies be blessed and may our responses be faithful. Amen.

Hymn for Sending    NCH #499    *Pues si vivimos (In All Our Living)*

PUES SI VIVIMOS

*~ as you are able, please stand ~*

The Sending

*~congregation reads **bold print**~*

God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

**We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.**

Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

**We will seek to share community with those we will meet.**

The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

**We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people.**

Postlude

+ + + + +

Worship Resources for today are adapted from:

enfleshed

Thom Shuman, PCUSA

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Save the Date** – Author, minister, prophet **John Pavlovitz** will be with us the first weekend of November. Clear your calendar, invite your friends, and be watching for more details about this weekend.

General Schedule:

7p.m. Saturday evening – Opening Address

10:30a.m. Sunday Worship

3p.m. Sunday – Closing Address

To prepare for his visit, we suggest your reading any of his books:

*A Bigger Table*

*Stuff that Needs to be Said*

*If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*

**ACTC** – has sent out a desperate plea for peanut butter, tuna, and mac & cheese. Please fill the red wagon on Sundays with donations so that we can deliver generously on Mondays. You can always drop off on the porch at 535 Brook Rd. Towson.

### **Many Gifts, Any Gifts!**

Our regular **choir rehearsals** will resume on alternate Thursday evenings. We meet in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm. If you have a musical talent to share (or just want to sing and have fun!) please join us! The choir also rehearses at 10 am on Sundays to prepare to help lead worship. As we transition into our new worship space, we are also planning some **new music opportunities**. Please consider sharing any gift you have. See Nancy or ask any choir member for more information.

If you want to **speak with the pastor**, it is best to leave a message on her home phone number: 410-832-3974. Or, you can email: [fssuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:fssuccpastor@gmail.com)

## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

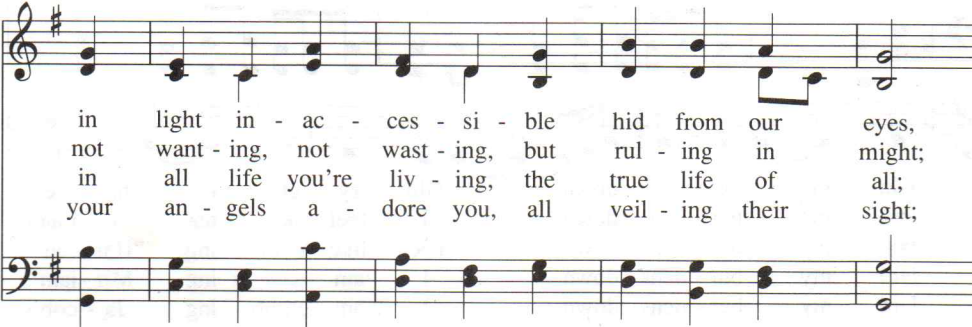
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Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

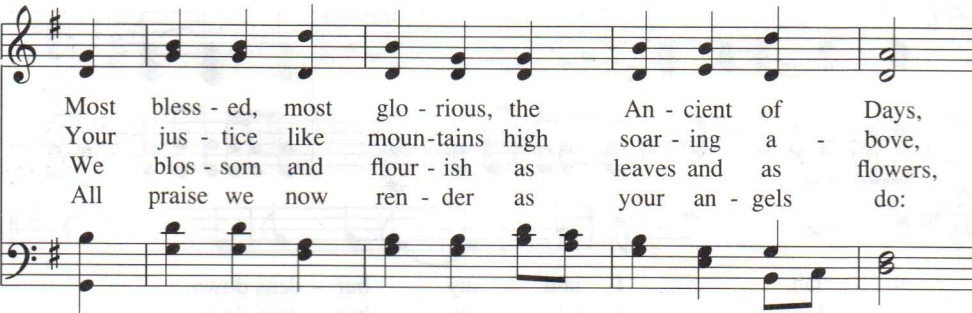
1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6



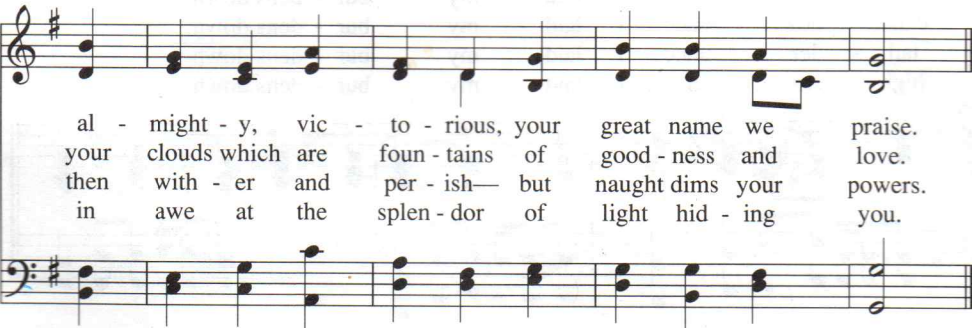
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;  
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;  
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,  
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.  
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and  
 later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from  
 work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts'  
 Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839



## God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

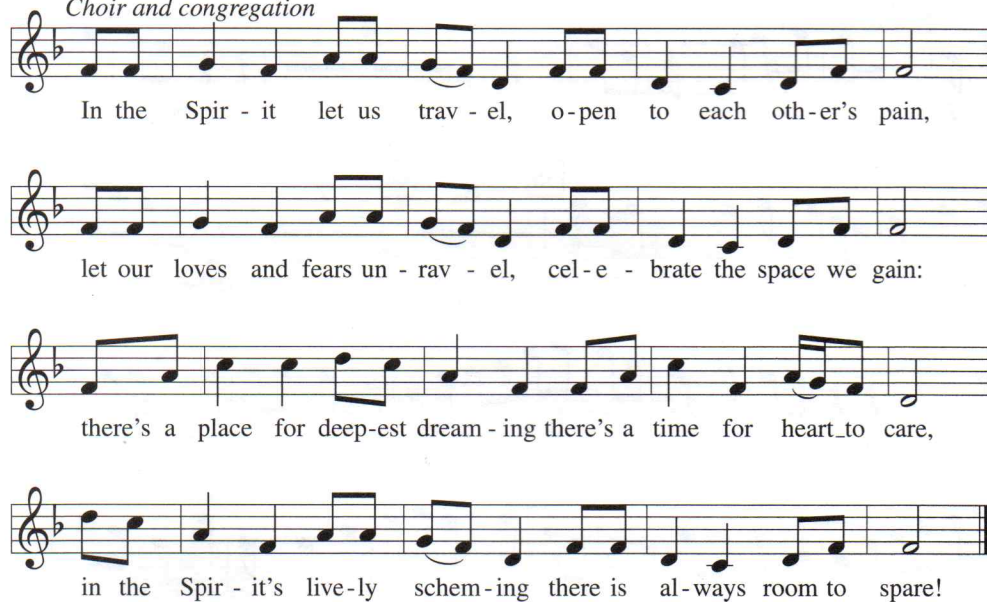
Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.  
 John Hughes, c. 1907

# Come and Find the Quiet Center

*Sung by choir*

- 1 Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
- 2 Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

*Choir and congregation*



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's pain,  
let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deep - est dream - ing there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Anne Krentz Organ

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# Pues si vivimos

(In All Our Living)

St. 1, Mexican folk hymn; transl. anon.

St. 2, Elise S. Eslinger, 1983

Unison

D Em A7 D

1 Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa-ra Dios vi - vi - mos  
 1 In all our liv - ing, we be-long to God;  
 2 God sent Christ Je - sus to be our sha-lom,

Bm Em A7 D

y si mo - ri - mos, pa-ra Dios mo - ri - mos.  
 and in our dy - ing, we are still with God;  
 to show us mer - cy and heal - ing love;

D G A F#m

Se-a que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,  
 So, wheth-er liv - ing, or wheth-er dy - ing,  
 So in our liv - ing, and in our dy - ing,

Bm Em A7 D

so - mos del buen Dios, so - mos del buen Dios.  
 we be-long to God; we be-long to God.  
 Christ is our sha - lom; Christ is our sha - lom.

This anonymous Mexican folk hymn was transcribed by hymnologist Gertrude Suppe after she first heard it sung by two church women visiting California from Mexico. It was published in *Celebremos II* (1983).

Tune: PUES SI VIVIMOS Irr.  
 Anon.; arr. B. C. M., 1988