

The Service of Worship
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Year A
October 1, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Preparation for Worship

Use the silence and the poem below to make the transition from getting here to being here.

more than grandpa's white gown yellowed by age
more than candle and towel
more than friends gathered
words spoken
water poured
or promises spoken aloud

baptism is more
it is sky parted peace
with heaven and earth pregnant-paused
to hear God speak the words

You are mine! *from Africana Worship*

Prelude Nancy Flandermeyer Chronister, Director of Music

Opus 23, No. 4

by Sergei Rachmaninoff

Welcome Rev. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Reading *Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16* Debbie Kavanagh

Litany for Worship

~ Congregation reads **bold** print ~

May God be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One who cradles our hearts in loving hands.

People of God, let us give thanks to the God who stirs the Font and sets the Table.

We praise God who welcomes all with open arms.

Hymn for Worship NCH #400 REGENT SQUARE

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

~ as you are able, please stand ~

Joys and Concerns

Remember these known concerns:

- Cora Elizabeth Martin on the day of her baptism
- Maggie Allen and her mother after kidney transplant surgery
- Martha Wharton's father
- Laura Weaver-Haas and her mother
- Beth Wheat – living with breast cancer
- The Flandermeyers – Nancy Chronister's parents
- Betty – Carol Berman's cousin living with cancer
- Lisa Kennedy awaiting surgery
- Nikki Balding's father-in-law
- Stef's brother, David, living with Alzheimer's

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer ~in unison~

Our Father/Mother, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Hymn for Promise VU #356

LAFFERTY

Seek Ye First

~ as you are able, please stand ~

About Baptism

Scripture Lessons

Debbie Kavanagh, Liturgist

Music Meditation

Kathy Williams, Hammered Dulcimer

The Sacrament of Baptism

Cora Elizabeth Martin

Parents' Promises

Hannah and Jesse, will you teach, raise, and encourage Cora to receive the freedom of new life in Jesus Christ?

We will, with God's help.

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be faithful, to follow in the teachings and life of Jesus, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

We do, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with Cora Elizabeth in faith, to help her, to be a faithful witness to the life and teachings of Jesus, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering to nurture her faith so that she may affirm her own faith in time?

We do, with the help of God.

Family Promises

It is not your place to tell Jesse and Hannah how to raise their daughter. It is your place to assist them; and to love Cora Elizabeth, and continue to be her family and support throughout her life. Your stories of faith will influence and enrich and help Cora to discover and develop her own faith story – and in turn, her relationship with God.

Therefore, do you promise to educate and bear witness to the best of your faith journeys – helping to nourish Cora to know and love God, God's creation, and all of humankind?

We do, with the help of God.

The Church's Promises

Members and Friends of First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Cora who is about to be baptized, and to family -- helping her to live and grow in Christ?

We do, with God's help.

As her extended faith community through her grandparents, Beth and Tim Wheat, witnessing her baptism, do you commit to care for, support, and extend extravagant welcome with your time, resources, and encouragement to help Cora know the love of God, God's people, and all of creation?

We will, with God's help.

Baptism is Witnessed

Choral Blessing

Choir

May God Who Creates You

by Louise Skibsted

Congregational Blessing NCH#351 BORNING CRY

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

~ as you are able, please stand ~

The Welcoming Table

Renewing or Anticipating Our Baptisms

Making our Offerings

Please consider making an offering through on-line giving, or mail your check to the church address, you can find all of that 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.

Benediction

Hammar skjöld

Song for Sending

THIS JOY

This Little Light of Mine

~ as you are able, please stand ~

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Every day, (every day), Every day, (every day),**

**Every day, (every day),
Gonna let my little light shine!**

Every where I go.....

Jesus gave me the light.....

This little light of mine.....

Postlude

+ + + + +

FIRST AND ST. STEPHEN'S

United Church of Christ

6915 York Road

Baltimore, MD 21212



As we come together to worship we name and honor the land on which we stand. With gratitude to our ancestors of the Susquehannock tribe we seek to be faithful stewards of these resources and the witness to their land.

Worship Resources for today are adapted from:

Africana Worship
Thom Shuman, PCUSA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Art for Healing” is the theme of our current gallery. The gallery is open today from noon to 2p.m.

Docent Schedule:

Today – Carol Berman
October 8 – Karen Lovelace
October 15 – Lois Joellenbeck
October 22 – Nikki Balding
October 29 – Jen Langdon

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 either place it in the offering plate or hand it to the pastor after the service.

A Special Welcome to the family and friends of Cora Elizabeth Martin who is being baptized today.

Thank you Kathy Williams, Amanda Ajulu's Mother and Eli's grandmother, for playing the hammered dulcimer in our worship today.

Please, join us for Coffee and Bagels after the service in the Gathering Room off of the sanctuary.

Changing the Cycles – help end menstrual poverty by bringing sanitary products to the box in the foyer. We are a part of sharing in this program with Deep Creek Magnet Middle School in the city. Any and all products are needed.

TransParents – if you are interested or know someone who might be interested in being in a support group for parents of transgender persons, please contact Lois Joellenbeck, (443)465-7094 or petelois@verizon.net.

ACTC needs our continued support. This week, please bring **hearty soups and green beans** to the red wagon in the foyer so they can be delivered on Monday.

Save the Date! Sunday, October 22 – Fall Congregational Meeting (details to follow.)

OPENING DOORS DINNER will be this week on **Thursday, October 5th, 2023, 6:00pm - 10:00 pm** at Shriner's Boumi Temple 5050 King Avenue Rosedale, MD. If you have made a reservation, please be sure to pay Brian or Bill today – writing “Cornerstone Community Housing” in the memo.

Church Staff

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Seek Ye First the Kingdom

Descant

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread a - lone, but by

le - lu - jah, hal - le -

D Em A7 D F#m

right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - ery word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you.
 o - pened un - to you.
 mouth of God. Hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah.

Words: Karen Lafferty 1972

Music: Karen Lafferty 1972; desc. Karen Lafferty 1972

Words, music, and descant copyright © 1972 Maranatha! Music.

LAFFERTY

Irregular

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LAFFERTY

Irregular

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

Unison

D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

CONFIRMATION

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.