

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Leaders: Beverly Goines, Charles Miller, and Beau Underwood
Preacher: Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Air

Gerre Hancock

MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME

Steven Baines

Welcome! National City Christian Church is the national church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a house of prayer that is open and affirming of all people. We pray that today's worship will please God and edify God's people.

Please sign the Connect With Us card in the bulletin. If you are a first-time guest, please indicate your address, telephone number, and email address. There is a space on the back for prayer concerns and comments. As we prepare for worship, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers, and watch alarms. The service is approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.

INTROIT

Charles Miller

Sing to God Loud Hymns of Praise

Sing to God loud hymns of praise for the blessed guidance of our days
and in return for blessings true we dedicate our lives to you.

✠HYMN OF PRAISE

No. 23
LAUDA ANIMA

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

✠RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God be praised!

People: I will give thanks to God with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, the congregation.

Leader: The worship of God is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding have all those who practice it.

People: God's praise endures forever.

Unison: Great God of the universe, whose wisdom pervades all creation, we gather before you to give you all praise and honor. Wonderful and majestic are your works. In company with the redeemed of all ages, we lift our voices to acclaim your worth.

✠HYMN OF RESPONSE

No. 22 (1)
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE READING

Beau Underwood
NT p. 161

1 Corinthians 8:1-6

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Beau Underwood

ANTHEM

arr. Alice Parker

Be Thou My Vision

Miriam Gentle, harpist

[Text for this anthem can be found on page 595 of the Chalice Hymnal]

CHILDREN'S TIME

Elementary school children will be invited by the pastor to leave the Sanctuary just before the sermon to attend a creative arts program in the Music Suite. Children will be dismissed to move to the Atrium to meet their parents at the end of the worship service.

SERMON

Stephen Gentle

Why Do We Exist?

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S WORD AND CELEBRATES GOD'S GRACE

Those desiring to become members of the community of National City Christian Church, either by transfer of membership, profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or as an associate member, are invited to come forward during the hymn.

✠HYMN OF COMMITMENT

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

Christ is the World's Light



1. Christ is the world's light. Christ and none oth - er; born in our dark - ness,
2. Christ is the world's peace. Christ and none oth - er; no one can serve him
3. Christ is the world's life. Christ and none oth - er; sold once for sil - ver,
4. Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er; give God the glo - ry,



he be - came our bro - ther. If we have seen him,
and de - spise a - no - ther. Who else u - nites us,
mur - dered here, dear sis - ter. Christ, who re - deems us,
Spi - rit, Son, and Fa - ther. Give God the glo - ry,



we have seen the Fa - ther:
one in God the Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!
reigns with God the Fa - ther:
God with us, my bro - ther:

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY SOLO

Walford Davies

God Be In My Head

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and at my departing.
[Sarum Primer, 1558]

✠DOXOLOGY

No. 46
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beverly Goines

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Trevor Dane

Elder: God of mercy, show compassion as we make our confession.

People: You command us to tell of your mighty deeds, yet we remain silent. You call us to act faithfully, yet we are slow to respond. We claim to be wise, but we neglect your law. Our allegiance is divided. Help us to obey Christ, to whom we owe our existence, and to love our neighbors, whom we are commanded to serve.

Elder: Listen to the Apostle Paul: "There is one God, . . . from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ through whom are all things and through whom we exist. . . . If one loves God, one is known by God." As we confess our sin and come to the Table, God is faithful and just. God forgives our sin.

Unison: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

Richard Bahr

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

This table is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Please eat the bread as it is passed and hold the cup so that we may share it together.

COMMUNION HYMN

No. 392 (2)
UNION SEMINARY

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver, break the bread and bless the cup.
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠HYMN OF GOING FORTH

No. 622
CWM RHONDDA

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

✠BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Paul Manz

Postlude on *God of Grace and God of Glory*

As the organ postlude is played, please feel free to depart the Sanctuary and greet those around you. For those who wish to stay and enjoy the postlude, you are invited to come forward, gather near the organ console, and let the full splendor of this instrument and the glorious music played upon it fill your soul.

Following the worship service, our pastors are at the back and side doors of the Sanctuary to greet you. All are invited to come down to the Atrium for a time of fellowship.

The flowers were given by Virginia Taylor and her family
in memory of her husband, the Rev. Dr. Richard Taylor.

Worship and preaching resources: Chalice Worship, Colbert S. Cartwright and O.I. Cricket Harrison, ed. (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1999), Seasons of the Spirit, Craig Schaub, et. al., (British Columbia, Canada: Wood Lake Publishing, Inc., 2007), www.liturgybytlw.com/lessfest/stsalive.html, and When We Gather, James G. Kirk, (Philadelphia: The Geneva Press, 2001).

WELCOME TO NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Welcome to National City! Thank you for joining us in worship. God calls us, names us, and watches over us with care. As we come to worship today, we pray that God will use us to further the work of God's benevolence, through Jesus Christ. Welcome to worship!

EVERY SUNDAY

Sunday School – 10 a.m. for children, youth, and adults

Classes for middle school students (Chi Rho) will meet in Scott Hall.

Classes for high school students (CYF) will meet in the 2nd Fl. Conf. Room.

Christian Pathways – Small group for adults, meet in the Howland Center

Children's Time – All elementary students are invited to participate in the children's Creative Arts program that takes place during the 11 a.m. service. Children can meet their parents in the Music Suite or in the Atrium at the end of the worship service.

FOR OUR GUESTS

Membership at NCCC – It would be our joy to welcome you into the membership of this congregation. You may join through transfer of membership from another congregation or through a profession of faith and baptism. Full and associate memberships are available. Please feel free to talk with any minister or email sgentle@nationalcitycc.org.

Sanctuary Tour – Tours of our historic Sanctuary are available following the 11 a.m. worship service. If you are interested, please meet at the Garfield Window in the rear of the Sanctuary (pulpit side).

Coffee and Fellowship – Come to the Atrium for a warm cup of coffee and meet some of the warm people of National City. The Atrium is located on the first floor of the building through the front, right door.

Nursery – Childcare is available during the morning for children through age four. The nursery is located in Fellers Foyer. Speak with a greeter or any member for directions.

Accessibility – Elevator access to the Sanctuary is available via the 14th Street courtyard entrance. If you would like to request a handicapped parking space for Sunday, please call the church office by 12 noon on Friday.

EN ESPAÑOL – Culto en la Capilla Phillips, Domingo 11 a.m.

Parking – Complimentary parking is available at the Washington Plaza Hotel parking garage. Simply ask for a voucher at the church front desk at the 14th street entrance. Street parking is available every Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the west ramp off Thomas Circle, which leads to Massachusetts Avenue.

Pastoral Needs – If you would like to speak with a pastor, please feel free to meet with one of the pastors at the door after the worship service or call 202-232-0323 during business hours.

National City Online – Visit online at www.nationalcitycc.org to find a recording of Sunday's sermon. Facebook members are encouraged to sign up as fans of National City's Facebook page. Also members and guests are encouraged to sign up for our email list at <http://www.nationalcitycc.org/register.asp>.

TODAY

Fair Trade Gifts, Crafts, and Coffee – Hilda's International Gift Shop is open today from 10 to 11 a.m. and 12 to 1 p.m. near the courtyard entrance in the Atrium.

Congregational Meeting and Luncheon – at 12:30 p.m. in the Howland Center.

Inurnment Service – Today, 3 p.m., Sanctuary, we will give thanks for the life and witness of the Rev. Dr. Dick Taylor, retired regional minister and former associate minister at National City Christian Church. Dr. Taylor passed away this last Tuesday after a long illness. Please enfold Virginia his wife of 60 years and their family in your prayers. Dick and Virginia were missionaries in Congo and Virginia was our Associate Minister in the 80s, 90s, and at the turn of the century.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Food Pantry from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Atrium.

D-Space – Join National City's young adults (Yada) for study and conversation at 6:45 p.m. This week we continue the series; Hitting the Reset Button: Back to the Basics in an Out-of-Control World.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 2

People's Prayer Breakfast -- Thursday, February 2, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Church of the Pilgrims, 2201 P Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Join with persons of many faiths from across the country to pray and stand in unity with those suffering economic hardship and inequality in our nation. For more information and to register: www.peoplesprayerbreakfast.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Souper Bowl Sunday – Sunday, February 5. Once again, we can purchase soup after the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services to take home and enjoy Theresa Beaton's fabulous soups. Cost per soup container: \$10. Watching the Super Bowl is optional!

Let's Help Finish Pillows – Sunday, February 5, 12:30 p.m., Howland Center. The Disciples Women invite everyone who can join them to help stuff cough pillows after the 11 a.m. service. The pillows are for recovering heart surgery patients. There will be soup for those who can stay and help. Let's make this an all-church event.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Reggie Barns; Russell Chapin; James Denison; Will Hill;
Ann and William Howland; Enid Maitland;
C. William and Claudine Nichols;
Denise Ross; Martha Thompkins;
and those in military and civil service.

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, DC

**PLEASE SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COLLEEN WALSH
BY NOON ON WEDNESDAY**

AT cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org OR cajwalsh@gmail.com



Yet there is one God, from whom are all things and for whom we exist
1Corinthians 8:6

January 29, 2012

11 a.m.



**National City Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**