

First Sunday of Advent

Worship Leaders: Valeria Foster and Noemi Mena

Preachers: Stephen Gentle, Beverly Goines, and Beau Underwood

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

We prepare for worship with the gathering music. Join in the singing of the gathering music with the choir, and please turn off all cellular phones, pagers, and watch alarms.

CALL TO WORSHIP Stephen Gentle

GATHERING MUSIC

I Love You, Lord, Today William F. Hubbard

I love you. I love you. I love you, Lord, today

Because you care for me in such a special way.

And yes, I praise you. I lift you up. I magnify your name.

That's why my heart is filled with praise.

My heart, my mind, my soul belong to you.

You paid the price for me way back on Calvary.

And yes I praise you. I lift you up. I magnify your name.

That's why my heart is filled with praise.

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High Rick Founds

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way;

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord, I lift your name on high.

✠OPENING HYMN No. 125

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.

From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.

You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;

Dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,

Born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.

By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

By your all-sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

✠LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE Noemi Mena

Pastor: During the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas Eve, Christians around the world await with great anticipation the coming of the Christ Child by lighting the candles of the Advent wreath. The four outer candles are known as the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. The central white candle is the Christ Candle. The color purple

is used on three of the candles to symbolize Christ's royalty. The pink candle is for the third Sunday of Advent, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, the Latin word for 'rejoice.' Today, on this first Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle of the Advent wreath - the candle of HOPE.

People: **The light from candles chases away the gloom and frightfulness of the dark of night, just as the presence of Christ in our lives chases away evil and brings comfort. With our fellow Christians, one candle is lit to help prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. May we receive God's light as we hear the words from Isaiah chapter nine, verse two: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined."**

Pastor: Let us pray: Heavenly Creator, as we look to the birth of Jesus, grant that the light of your love for us will help us to become lights in the lives of those people whom we meet each day. Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming, for Jesus Christ is our true hope. Amen.

✠SONG OF THANKSGIVING

A Candle Is Burning

(sung to the melody of 'Away in a Manger')

A candle is burning - a flame warm and bright

a candle of Hope in December's dark night.

Angels sing blessings from heaven's bright sky.

Hearts we prepare, for the Christ child is nigh.

✠MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP, WELCOME OF VISITORS Stephen Gentle

Welcome to National City Christian Church. We greet you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We request that everyone - both members and visitors - sign the Connect With Us cards in your bulletin. If you are a visitor, please indicate your address and telephone number. There is space on the back of the cards for prayer concerns.

CALL TO PRAYER No. 134

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

(repeat)

PASTORAL PRAYER Noemi Mena

LORD'S PRAYER (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.

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

CHORAL PRAISE Wyatt Tee Walker/Arr. Valeria Foster

Is There Any Room in Your Heart for Jesus?

SCRIPTURE READING Noemi Mena
NT p. 156

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

HYMN OF PREPARATION No. 132 (1)

When God Is a Child

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain:

When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

SERMON Stephen Gentle

Deck The Halls

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

No. 125

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.

From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.

You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;

dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

THE SANCTUARY EVERGREENS Beverly Goines

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

No. 167 (1)

THE CHRISTMAS TREE Beau Underwood

O Christmas Tree

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree, How lovely are your branches!

In beauty green will always grow, Through summer sun and winter snow.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How lovely are your branches!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree, Your beauty green will teach me

That hope and love will ever be, The way to joy and peace for me.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree, Your beauty green will teach me.

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA Stephen Gentle

I Wonder As I Wander

No. 161

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,

how Jesus the Savior did come for to die

for poor ordinary people like you and like I;

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

(Repeat)

THE PARAMENTS AND ADVENT COLORS Beverly Goines

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 119

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's deep shadows put to flight.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

THE NATIVITY

Beau Underwood

O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 144

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.

**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.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING

Stephen Gentle

ELDERS' PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Michelle Jezycki
John Scott Williams

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS

This table is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Please come forward by the center aisle as directed by the Deacons. White baskets are available at the first pew for your offerings. When receiving communion, take a wafer from the plate and dip it in the cup. After you have received the Lord's Supper, please return to your seats by the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMN

No. 425

Let Us Break Bread Together

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠BENEDICTION

✠RESPONSE

Keith C. Laws

We Must Work

We must work while it is day,
Spreading the word of God as we go along the way.
We must be willing to do God's will,
Spreading the word of God till it reaches throughout the hills.
We must witness to everyone we meet in every song we sing.
We must tell them of the soon coming King.

Following the worship service, our pastors are at the front 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 David and Kathleen Walker in honor of their 30th Wedding Anniversary on December 19.

WELCOME TO NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship! Today is the beginning of a new Church year. The First Sunday in Advent is the New Year's Sunday for the church universal. We are so glad that you are here. We pray that God's Spirit will be renewed in your life this Advent season, as we worship the Lord together. On this day, we adorn this place making it ready for Christmas. Join with us this Sunday as we hang the Christmas green!

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

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), and When We Gather, James G. Kirk, (Philadelphia: The Geneva Press, 2001). Hanging of the Christmas Greens is adapted from a liturgy by Monte Nabors and Kelly Yates with additions by Dennis Bratcher. The texts for the hymns sung during this morning service are reprinted with permission given under CCLI #2266475.

Tell of THE Yuletide Treasure!



**November 27, 2011
8:30 a.m.**



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