

# First Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader: Charles Miller

Preachers: Stephen Gentle, Beverly Goines, and Beau Underwood

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE Robert Edward Smith & Paul Manz  
Three Settings of *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*

MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME Stephen Gentle  
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 e-mail 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 August Lemke  
*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  
Lift up your heads, O gates be lifted up. The King will come in, the King of glory.  
Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty.

✠HYMN OF PRAISE No. 119  
VENI EMMANUEL  
*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

### LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Liturgist: 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."**

Liturgist: 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.

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*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.

### SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

NT p. 156

### ANTHEM

arr. J. Edmund Hughes

*Alleluia, Rejoice!*  
O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Hodie Christus natus est: hodie Salvator apparuit:  
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, hodie exultant justi,  
dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.*

(Today Christ is born; today the Savior will appear; today the angels sing;  
Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory be to God on high. Alleluia!)

### 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

*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!

### 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

### GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Stephen Gentle

### OFFERTORY SOLO

Henry Hugh Bancroft

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*  
Christian Kennedy, baritone

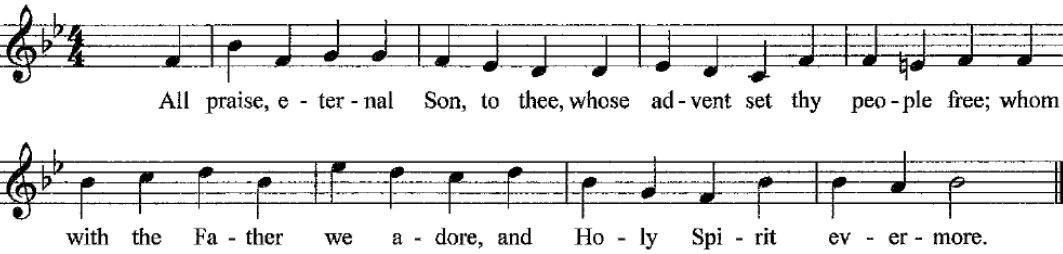
There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;  
Make straight all the crooked placed where the Lord our God may go.  
O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.

Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay,  
The power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.  
But the word of God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong;  
He stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong.  
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold;  
To pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

✠DOXOLOGY

WINCHESTER NEW

*All Praise, Eternal Son, To Thee*



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Stephen Gentle

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Kristi Dane

Elder: God, you are the source of life and the one who gives us all good gifts.

**People: As we enter into this season of Advent, we bring you our gifts: money, bread, communion wine, and our lives given back to you.**

Elder: With our gifts we proclaim your praise and offer the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

**People: 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.**

Elder: Prepare us now to commune with our Lord.

**People: As we receive this holy meal, forgive our sins, renew in us the power of our baptism, and strengthen us for our ministry in the world.**

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

Bill Knight

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. 124 (2)  
PICARDY

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Truly God, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Word of God, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;  
Christ will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE**

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 GOING FORTH

No. 129  
TRURO

*Lift Up Your Heads, O mighty Gates*

✠BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach

*O Thou of God the Father*

*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 David and Kathleen Walker  
in honor of their 30th Wedding Anniversary on December 19.

*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.*

**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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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>.

# Tell of THE Yuletide Treasure!



**November 27, 2011  
11 a.m.**



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