

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leaders: Beverly Goines, Charles Miller, and John Scott Williams
Preacher: Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Melodia

Max Reger

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 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

William W. How

Jesus, Name of Wondrous Love

Jesus, name of wondrous love, prince of peace and heavenly dove,
unto which must everyone praise your name in heaven above!

✠HYMN OF PRAISE

No. 2
HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

✠RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

John Scott Williams

Leader: God of Life,

People: you are as near to us as our breath.

Leader: Touch our eyes,

People: that we may see you in one another.

Leader: Open our ears,

People: that we may hear your voice in the cries of the oppressed.

Leader: Enter our hearts,

People: that we may be filled with your love toward all people.

Leader: Come, O God of life and breath and wholeness.

People: Be with us now. Show us the way to new life and grant us the courage to be people of your Way.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 721 (4)
AMERICA

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing;
long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might, Great God, our King.

SCRIPTURE READING

John Scott Williams
NT p. 20

Matthew 20:1-16

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

ANTHEM

arr. David Hogan

I Love You, O My God Most High

I love you, O my God most high, for first your love has captured me;
I seek no other liberty: bound by your love I shall be free.
All mine is yours: say but the word, say what you will, it shall be done.
I know your love, most holy one, I know you seek my good alone.
May memory no thought suggest, but that to your pure glory tend,
may understanding find no rest, except in you, its only end.
Apart from you, nothing can be, so grant me this, my only wish:
to love you, Christ, eternally; you give me all in giving this.

SERMON

Stephen Gentle

Laborers for the Kingdom

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

BEACH SPRING

Those Who Love, and Those Who Labor



1. Those who love and those who la - bor fol - low in the way of Christ; thus the
2. Where the ma - ny work to - geth - er, they with Christ him - self a - bide. But the



first dis - cip - les found him thus the gift of love suf - ficed. Je - sus says to those who
lone - ly work - ers al - so find him ev - er at their side. Lo, the Prince of com - mon



seek him, "I will ne - ver pass you by. Raise the
wel - fare dwells with - in the mar - ket strife; Lo the



stone and you shall find me, cleave the wood and there am I."
bread of heav'n is bro - ken in the sac - ra - ment of life.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING

Beverly Goines

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Elder: On this Labor Day Sunday let us lift up all people who labor, either for pay or as volunteers, in jobs or at school, at home or in the workplace, in the U.S. and around the world.

Unison: We are workers, God, just like you. But we confess that our work is not always done in a manner that affirms and honors each other. Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you. We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions. We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages, health insurance, sick leave, a pension, paid vacations, and other benefits, while others have jobs that do not. Creator God, help us to build a new world in the midst of the old, a world where all workers are valued. One where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat

their fill. And one where those who serve us -- in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places -- are also served by us. It will be a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.

Elder: O Lord, you are the God of grace and transformation. When we ask, you give us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as around your Table.

Unison: Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

This table is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Please come forward by the center aisle as directed. When receiving communion, take the bread and dip it into the cup. Offering trays are available near the communion table for any offering or connect cards. Return to your seat by the side aisle. Communion is available for those who prefer to remain in their pew.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Improvisation on Hymns of Our Faith

Miriam Gentle, harp

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠HYMN OF GOING FORTH

ORA LABORA

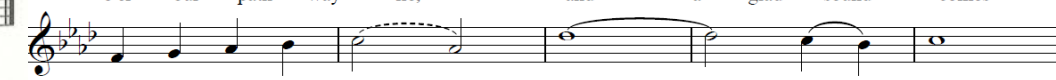
Come, Labor On



1. Come, la - bor on. Who dares stand id - le on the har - vest plain, while all a - round us
2. Come, la - bor on. The en - e - my is watch - ing night and day, to sow the tares, to
3. Come, la - bor on. A - way with gloom - y doubts or faith - less fear! No arm so weak but
4. Come, la - bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share; to young and old the
5. Come, la - bor on. No time for rest, 'til glows the west - ern sky, 'til the long shad - ows



waves the gol - den grain? And to each ser - vant
snatch the seed a - way. While we in sleep our
may do ser - vice here: by feeb - lest ag - ents
Gos - pel glad - ness bear. Re - deem the time, its
o'er our path - way lie, and a glad sound comes



does the mas - ter say: "Go work to - day."
du - ty have for - got, he slum - bered not.
may our God ful - fill his right - eous will.
hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.
with the set - ting sun: "Ser - vant, well done!"

✠BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

John Stanley

Trumpet Tune in D Major

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.

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). 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! On this Labor Day weekend we worship the One who has labored for humanity since the beginning of time, the Creator of all that is, and the Creator of you and me. Whether you are traveling this holiday season or a regular worshiper at National City, we are so honored that you are in worship. Let us worship our Lord with the full labor of our lives in Christ Jesus

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>.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

We lift up in prayer those at camp this week;
Pam Chewing; James Green; Lari Grubbs; Polly He; Will Hill;
William C. Howland, Jr.; Enid Maitland; C.
William and Claudine Nichols; Hilda Reynolds; Denise Ross;
Martha Thompkins; David Tyson; Al Weaver; Tamara Webb;
and those in military and civil service.

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Heritage Christian Church, Silver Spring, Maryland

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.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
LABOR DAY - NCCC OFFICES CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Magical, Mystical, Musical, Machine – Pipe organ recital and demonstration series. 12:15 - 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Free. This week features Charles Miller in commemoration of 9/11.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help with the Church Yardwork - We welcome everyone's help Saturday, September 10, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. as we catch up yardwork. If you can work two hours in that time frame, we'll achieve our goals. All work done in advance is appreciated. If you can't work that Saturday, please work during the week. Thank you for your support in making National City our proud church.

Spirit Sunday, September 11 - Ten years ago, on this day, our nation was forever changed. National City will come together in a morning of remembrance as the elders lead us through a moment of prayer, silence, and the tolling of the bells, for all those who have been affected by 9-11. Dr. Gentle will preach a challenging message called, "Unforgivable?" based on the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 18:21-35. At 11 a.m. the Sanctuary Choir will share a new anthem based on the prayer of Francis of Assisi, "Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace." After the 11 a.m. worship, the community will come together for Sundaes on the Steps.

D-Space is Back! - Join National City's young adults (Yada) for study and conversation on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. starting September 14. Email Beau Underwood at beau.underwood@gmail.com for more information.

Disciples Women Meeting September 13 - Disciples Women will be looking at the Beatitudes at their monthly meetings this year. In September Dr. Stephen Gentle will launch the study at 11 a.m. in the Music Suite. Bring a sandwich to add to the salad supplied by Circle One. We invite all to join us for study, worship, and fellowship.

Regional Young Adult Retreat September 14-16 - The Christian Church Capital Area will have a young adult retreat for people 18 to 35 at Camp Mary Mac near Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Anniversary Celebration on September 18 - Fifty years ago a couple pledged their love to one another. Join Peter and Lynne Morgan on this blessed day filled with poignant memories, delicious food, and a benefit concert for our Sanctuary Choir. Sign up sheet is available at the Atrium desk.

PLEASE SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COLLEEN WALSH
AT cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org OR cajwalsh@gmail.com



September 4, 2011

11 a.m.



National City Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)