

# First Sunday of Christmas

Worship Leaders: Beverly Goines, and Beverly Williams  
Preacher: Steven Moore

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

Carol-Prelude on *Greensleeves* M. Searle Wright

*Now Behold the Lamb* Kirk Franklin

*Celebrate* John P. Kee

Members of the NCCC Gospel Choir; Valeria Foster, director/pianist

### MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME

Steven Moore

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.

### ✠HYMN OF PRAISE

No. 162  
GREENSLEEVES

*What Child is This*

### ✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Beverly Williams

Leader: Shout to the Lord your praises!

**People: Sing to the Lord the joy of this day!**

Leader: For God's might and power are established in the universe!

**People: God's transforming love beckons us.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God whose Light bursts forth into our darkness!

**People: Let us praise the God of salvation who brings us home.**

## THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

### ✠OPENING PRAYER

(Unison)

**God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned  
across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus' birth,  
sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals.**

**You have given to us a new chance, a reminder of your continual love for us.**

**Be with us in this worship, we pray. Guide our thoughts,  
our lives, and our spirits. Heal and restore us.**

**For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### SOLO

John Jacob Niles

*What Songs Were Sung*

Alia Waheed, soprano

We cannot tell, we do not know what stars shone down so long ago,  
when Mary birthed her own sweet Son and peace and love became as one.

The Song of God, as scriptures said, was Virgin-born in tiny shed,  
where simple shepherds stood hard by while heavenly sound filled up the sky.

Now let us stand, uncovered all, before his crèche in lowly stall,  
where kings and angels dignify God's gift, his Son, in humility.  
We do not know, we cannot tell, what songs were sung, what starlight fell,  
or why the holy mystery stands for so many years in so many lands.  
We cannot tell, we do not know what stars shone down so long ago,  
when Mary birthed her own sweet Son and peace and love became as one.

### SCRIPTURE READING

Beverly Williams

NT p. 1

Matthew 2:1-23

### SERMON

Steven Moore

*The Wild Hope*

## 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.

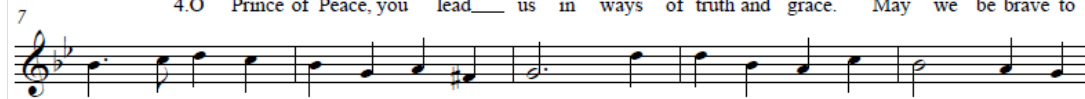
### ✠HYMN OF COMMITMENT

LLANGLOFFAN

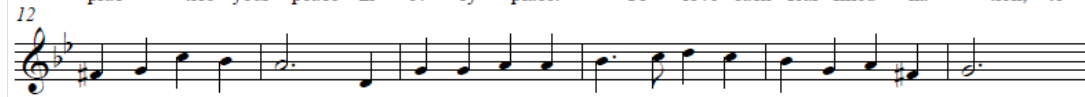
*A Voice Was Heard in Ramah*



1.A voice was heard in Ra - mah that could not be con - soled, as Ra - chel wept for  
2.O God, we hear the cry - ing for lit - tle ones of yours; for ma - ny still are  
3.When - ev - er one is weep - ing, the whole world suf - fers too. Yet, Je - sus, as we  
4.O Prince of Peace, you lead us in ways of truth and grace. May we be brave to



child - ren she could no long - er hold. For He - rod ruled the na - tion, yet  
dy - ing in con - flicts and in wars; in ev' - ry trou - bled na - tion on  
serve them, we're al - so ser - ving you. So may we not ig - nore them, nor  
prac - tice your peace in ev' - ry place. To love each fear - filled na - tion, to



feared the in - fant King. How great the de - va - sta - tion that fear and an - ger bring!  
ev' - ry vio - lent street, how great the la - men - ta - tion when fear and an - ger meet.  
turn our eyes a - way, but help us la - bor for them to bring a bet - ter day.  
serve each trou - bled street. How great the ce - le - bra - tion when peace and jus - tice meet!

### GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Beverly Goines

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

G.F. Handel

*Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion* from *Messiah*

Rejoice, rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold thy king cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior,  
and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

(Zechariah 9: 9-10)

### ✠DOXOLOGY

No. 173 (3)

DIX

*As With Gladness*

As they offered gifts so rare at the manger, plain and bare,

So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,

All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beverly Goines

### PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Kent Woods

Leader: We come to you this day, gracious Lord, exhausted from all the activities of the season. It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse.

**People: We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had. Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering.**

Leader: As we gather around this table, give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you. Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others.

**All: Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness. Heal us, merciful Lord, for we pray this saying: 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

Byron Cotton

### 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. Return to your seat by the side aisle.

### COMMUNION HYMN

No. 147 (3)  
AWAY IN A MANGER

*Away in a Manger*

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever,  
and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

### ✠HYMN OF GOING FORTH

No. 151  
THE FIRST NOEL

*The First Noel*

### ✠BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach

*In Dulci Jubilo*

*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!** We are so honored that you are in worship with us today. May the love of God be with the whole people of God – wherever people are gathered in worship to praise the Lord for the babe born in Bethlehem.

### FOR OUR GUESTS

**Connect With Us!** – We are so delighted that you have chosen to worship at National City Christian Church. Please take a moment and sign the *Connect With Us* card in the bulletin. Indicate your address, telephone number, and e-mail address. There is a space on the back for prayer concerns and comments. Please place it in the offering tray.

**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 membership are available. Please feel free to talk with any minister or e-mail [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. In addition, the sanctuary has an assisted listening system; please request a receiver from an usher.

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

**Audio Recording** – Tapes of the sermon from the 11 a.m. worship service are available for \$4. Tapes may be ordered by completing the form at the reception desk in the Atrium or by calling the church office. Please add \$2 per tape for mailing. Messages are also available for download at [www.nationalcitycc.org](http://www.nationalcitycc.org)

**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 during business hours, 202-232-0323.

**National City Online** – Visit online at [www.nationalcitycc.org](http://www.nationalcitycc.org) and 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 e-mail list at <http://www.nationalcitycc.org/register.asp>

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 - No Sunday school classes**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 - NCCC OFFICES CLOSED**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29**

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2**

**Combined Worship Service at 10 a.m.**

**Hispanic Worship Service at 11 a.m.**

**No Sunday school classes**

**Un-Hanging of the Green** – Please help us take down all the decorations after the 10 a.m. service.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 3 - NCCC OFFICES CLOSED**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday School Brunch** – All Sunday School classes will resume on January 9 with a potluck breakfast at 9:45 a.m. in Scott Hall. Everyone is invited to attend; please bring your favorite breakfast treat to share.

**Food Pantry Donations** – Please donate non-perishable food items for the needy in the area any Sunday this season. You may leave your gift in the marked box found in the Narthex or in the Atrium. Donations of toiletries, socks, hats, and gloves are also needed. Thank you.

**Holiday Worship Schedule** – Please join us for Sunday worship at 10 a.m. January 2. Regular worship hours of 8:30 and 11 a.m. will resume on January 9. Hispanic worship services will continue through the holidays at 11 a.m. in Phillips Chapel. Sunday school classes will not be meeting December 26 or January 2, but will resume with the regular schedule on January 9.

**Yada Goes to Brunch** – Join the Young Adults for brunch around the corner at Logan's Tavern after the joint 10 a.m. service on January 2. We will meet in the Atrium following the service.

**Yada D-Space Goes to Happy Hour** - Join the Young Adults at happy hour Tuesday, December 28, and Tuesday, January 4. Locations are TBD, so sign up for the Yada Newsletter to learn more. Study will resume January 11. Contact Ann Neeriemer at [aneeriemer@gmail.com](mailto:aneeriemer@gmail.com) if you'd like to lead a week of study in 2011.

**Join Yada for the MLK Day of Service** – The Young Adults are sponsoring a team for the MLK Day of Service, January 17, with GreaterDCCares. We would like to invite all church members and visitors to join the team. Sign up today.

**New Church Directory** – In preparation for printing a new church directory in January, there will be a copy at the Atrium desk for you to check the information for its correctness and completeness.

### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Jim Baines; Warren Brooks; James Green; Polly He; William C. Howland, Jr.; Tom Kelley; Enid Maitland; Eva Moore; C. William and Claudine Nichols; Hilda Reynolds; Martha Thompkins; Al Weaver; and those in military service.

### CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister, and your Regional staff/volunteers

**PLEASE SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COLLEEN WALSH**  
AT [cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org) OR [cajwalsh@gmail.com](mailto:cajwalsh@gmail.com)



**December 26, 2010  
10 a.m.**



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