

# First Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader: Maury Lee

Preachers: Stephen Gentle, Beverly Goines, and Steven Moore

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

J.S. Bach

Prelude on *Veni Emmanuel*

Noel Rawsthorne

### 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.

### INTROIT

August Lemke

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates. Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near. The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation he doth bring, wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:  
We praise thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art thou.

### ✠HYMN OF PRAISE

No. 119

VENI EMMANUEL

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

### LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Maury Lee

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.

### CONGREGATIONAL HYMN OF RESPONSE

*(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.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's bright sky

Our hearts we prepare, for the Christ child is nigh.

### SCRIPTURE READING

Maury Lee

OT p. 600

Isaiah 2:1-5

### ANTHEM

*Will We Know Him?*

Don Besig

Are we ready for the babe of Bethlehem to be born in a lowly stall?  
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King who will come to save us all?  
Are we ready for the star of Bethlehem to appear in the winter sky?  
Are we ready to follow anywhere it leads and let its light fill all in our lives?  
Prepare ye the way for the King of Glory. Once again proclaim the wondrous story.  
God will send his own true Son, but will we know him when he comes?  
Are we ready for the song of Bethlehem to declare our Savior's birth?  
Are we ready to join the angels as they sing and spread the news to all on earth?  
Prepare yet the way...  
Are we ready for the babe of Bethlehem, God's true and promised Son?  
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King and will we know him when he comes?  
Will we know him when he comes?

### 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

*Haul Out the Holly!*

### 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

Steven Moore

*Go, Tell It On The Mountains*

No. 167 (1)

### THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Beverly Goines

*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

Steven Moore

*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

Beverly Goines

*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

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Stephen Gentle

### GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Stephen Gentle

### ✠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

Stephen Gentle

### PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Bill Knight

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

Theresa Beaton

### 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

### ✠HYMN OF GOING FORTH

No. 129

TRURO

*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

## ✠ BENECTION

### POSTLUDE

*Wake, Awake For Night is Flying*

Max Regar

*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). 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 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

**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)

**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.

**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).

**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, NOVEMBER 28

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

Classes for elementary students will meet in the staff lounge on the third floor of the Beasley Building.

Classes for middle and high school students will meet in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Christian Pathways – 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.

**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.

**Hanging of the Green** – Please join us on after the 11 a.m. worship service to decorate the church followed by a light lunch of Sue Frost's famous chili. We will need help decorating the Narthex, Scott Hall, Atrium, Howland Center, and the Gift Shop.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

**YADA D-Space** – Young Adults gather for snacks and socializing (6:45 p.m.) and study (7-8:30 p.m.). It's a great time out of your week to develop spiritually and connect with other young adults. Ann Neeriemer is preparing a short study on a book of the Bible with a Christmas theme. If you are interested in leading a week of the study or providing snacks, contact Ann at [aneeriemer@gmail.com](mailto:aneeriemer@gmail.com).

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

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

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

**Magical Mystical Musical Machine** from 12:15 to 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary, featuring National City's Minister of Music, Charles Miller.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Christmas Caroling** - Sunday, December 5. Join your voice with the National City Sanctuary choir merry makers to spread a little Christmas cheer to our neighbors. Meet in the Music Suite at 12:30 p.m. for sandwiches and then bundle up to carol on the circles.

**Angel Tree** – This project is an opportunity to bring Christmas to the children of prisoners through the Prison Fellowship Ministry. Pick up a gift tag for a child from the Angel Tree in the Atrium. Each tag has a request for a child of one apparel item and a play item. Each item should cost no more than \$20 each. As the church coordinator, Deloris Ruddock thanks you for your participation this year as you have done in the past.

**Christmas Sing Along** – Tuesday, December 7, 11 a.m., Howland Center. Please bring your jingle bells and dress festively for the Christmas Sing Along, led by Dorothy Davis, at the Disciples Women general meeting. All are invited.

**YADA Christmas Party** – The Young Adults will be gathering Friday, December 10, 2010 for our annual Christmas party at Albemarle House a.k.a. Kathleen's place. Details on white elephant, service activity, food and beverage to come. Guests are welcome, but please RSVP for a head count on Facebook or text Kathleen at 615-424-6498.

### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Darrell Daniels; James Green; Xiao 'Polly' He; William C. Howland, Jr.;  
Tawanna Lloyd; Enid Maitland; C. William and Claudine Nichols;  
Hilda Reynolds; Martha Thompkins; Alice Tate; Al Weaver;  
and those in military service.

### CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

United Christian Parish, Reston, Virginia

PLEASE SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COLLEEN WALSH

At [cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org) OR [cajwalsh@gmail.com](mailto:cajwalsh@gmail.com)

*We need a little Christmas*



*... right now!*

**November 28, 2010**

**11 a.m.**



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