

# First Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader: Noemi Mena

Preachers: Stephen Gentle, Beverly Goines, and Steven Moore

## 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 Orlando Juarez

### *Welcome into This Place*

Welcome into this place. Welcome into this broken vessel.

You desire to abide in the praises of your people,

So we lift our hands and we lift our hearts

As we offer up this praise unto your name.

*(repeat)*

### *I Was Glad*

I was glad when they said unto me;

I was glad when they said unto me;

I was glad when they said unto me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

*(repeat)*

✠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 No. 128 (1)

### *One Candle Is Lit*

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,

Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.

Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.

One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

✠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

OT p. 600

Isaiah 2:1-5

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

### *Haul Out the Holly!*

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE 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.

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

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING Stephen Gentle

ELDERS’ PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP Cecil Talbott  
Paul Heffron

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.*

*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.

**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.

**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).

## 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 [cawalsh@gmail.com](mailto:cawalsh@gmail.com)

# We need a little Christmas



... right now!

November 28, 2010

8:30 a.m.



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