

Second Sunday of Lent

Worship Leaders: Katherine Blaisdell and Beverly Goines
Preacher: Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Aria

Paul Manz

Contemplation (Tallis' Canon)

Richard I. Purvis

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

Edward Miller

God Loved the World

God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save;
that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.

✠HYMN OF PRAISE

No. 108
CRUCIFER

Lift High the Cross

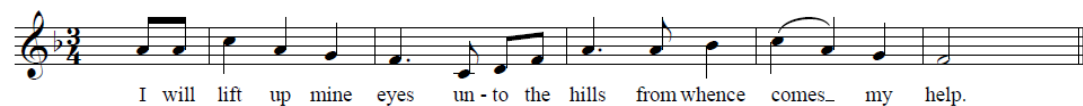
✠OPENING PRAYER

Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Katherine Blaisdell



I lift up my eyes unto the hills – from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Lord will not let your foot to be moved;
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

The One who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

[R]

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is the shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

[R]

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-17

Katherine Blaisdell

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son
that whoso believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world
but that the world through him might be saved.

[John 3:16]

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

I Believe, But I'm Not a Fanatic

Stephen Gentle

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

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

No. 542
ABERYSTWYTH

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Psalms 122: I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

Noel Rawsthorne

✠DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 48
TALLIS' CANON

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beverly Goines

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Kent Woods

Elder: Gracious and glorious Lord, we come, as did Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and in our lives.

People: We come hoping someone can help us find answers and healing. But we are also hardened with doubts about self, others, and even you. Grant us healing and openness to your spirit that we may be better servants of your Word, your Will, and your Way.

Elder: New life is given to us. We can place our trust in God and follow God's way. God is with us.

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.

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

John Scott Williams

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. 404 (1)
BOYLSTON

A Hymn of Joy We Sing

A hymn of joy we sing around your table, Lord;
again our grateful tribute bring, our solemn vows record.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠HYMN OF GOING FORTH

No. 543
ASSURANCE

Blessed Assurance

✠BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Abide With Me

arr. Donald Hustad

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 in honor of David Albee,
Enid Maitland, and Bettie Moores.

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 pleased that you are in worship today. During the season of Lent, we are considering excuses that people use to keep them from growing spiritually. Today we consider the excuse: "I believe in God, I'm just not a fanatic!" Let us worship the one, eternal God who has created us and all of life and give thanks for Christ who binds us together in Christian love.

We welcome and thank Keevin Lewis for his work as substitute organist this morning. Mr. Lewis is one of the most sought after substitute organists here in the Washington DC area. He also works at the Smithsonian Institute. We also thank long-time NCCC choir member Barbara Collins for directing the choir this morning!

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

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.

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.

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 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>.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Jane Campbell; James Green; Roy Hatton; Polly He; Will Hill;
William C. Howland, Jr.; Ruth Lee; Enid Maitland;
C. William and Claudine Nichols; Lynn Parrish; Hilda Reynolds;
Denise Ross; Martha Thompkins; Al Weaver;
and those in military service.

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Lansdowne Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Food Pantry Drive - Please bring in protein items such as canned tuna, boxed macaroni & cheese, or other canned meat items. Items will be collected at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services.

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 3rd Floor Conference Room.

Christian Pathways – Small group led by Bill Travis in the Howland Center

Preschool Lenten Class - 10 a.m. in the Nursery. At the same time, parents are invited to attend a Lenten study led today by Dr. Gentle. The parent group will meet in Fellers Foyer, just outside the nursery. Please let Teresa Swihart know if your preschooler plans to attend.

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.

Board Meeting – at 12:30 p.m. in Scott Hall. Lunch, consisting of soup and sandwiches, is \$6.

Lenten Study Group – 5 p.m. at the home of Barbara Collins and led by John Scott Williams. We will be using the *2011 Lenten Bible Study* that can be downloaded at www.disciplesmissionfund.org. Please call Barbara at 703-323-1187 for directions.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

Yada Lenten Studies – Yada welcomes the entire church to join in a small group study for the Lenten season. We will be studying Jesus' seven "I am" statements, found in the Gospel of John. Each week we'll explore one of the statements through scripture, discussion, and prayer. We meet in Hilda's gift shop at 7 p.m. every Tuesday. Come a bit earlier for snacks and socializing. For more information please contact Ann at aneeriemer@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Magical Mystical Musical Machine – Free organ recital and demonstration series featuring Charles Miller and a recital of all Bach organ works, at 12:15 - 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days – Ecumenical Advocacy Days will take place this year March 25-28 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia. For more information, visit www.advocacydays.org. There will be a special free event for Disciples on Saturday, March 26, at 7 p.m. More information is available at www.dawnccca.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Lenten Study Group – 10 a.m. Hilda's Gift Shop, led by Bill Knight. We will be using National City's 2011 Lenten Devotional that can be downloaded at www.nationalcitycc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blanket Sunday – The Disciples Women will be collecting donations for blankets next Sunday at all services. All donations go to Church World Services which will distribute the blankets to those affected by disasters, like the earthquakes and tsunami in Japan.

Memorial Service – A memorial service for Judith Bolton will be held on Sunday, March 27, at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Yada Retreat!! – April 8-10 the Young Adults are headed out of town. Our beloved Dr. Peter Morgan is leading us through "Leader as Shaman: Playing, Praying, and Probing." The retreat is a great way to get to know other young adults and take a break from the craziness of D.C. The cost is \$75. (Some have asked – Yada is a community of 20's and 30's seeking to know God and know each other.) Forms are available online and from the Yada Support Team - Kristi, Trevor, Kathleen, Katie, Ann, and Beverly.

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

Major Excuses for a
Marginal Faith:

I Believe,
But I'm Not a
FANATIC

March 20, 2011
11 a.m.



National City Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)