

Third Sunday of Lent

Worship Leaders: Gary Lewis and Steven Moore
Preacher: Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude in C minor
Kenneth Lowenberg, guest organist and choirmaster

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 Franz Schubert
Lord, Have Mercy
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

✠HYMN OF PRAISE No. 622
CWM RHONDDA
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

✠OPENING PRAYER Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE PSALM Gary Lewis
No. 747
Psalms 95

SCRIPTURE READING Gary Lewis
NT. p. 90
John 4:4-26

ANTHEM John Hilton
Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies' Sake
Lord, for thy tender mercies' sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives,
to decline from sin and incline to virtue that we may walk with a perfect heart
before thee now and ever more.
[from *Christian Prayers and Meditations*, 1568]

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
Can't I Worship on the Golf Course or at Sunday Brunch?

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 No. 542
ABERYSTWYTH
Jesus, Lover of My Soul

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING Steven Moore

OFFERTORY SOLO arr. Lon Schreiber
Deep River
Terri Malone, mezzo soprano

✠DOXOLOGY No. 46
OLD HUNDREDTWENTY
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION Steven Moore

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE Rick Bahr
Elder: Holy One, we search for you, we long to feel closer to you. Renew in us the sensation of living water, the spring that gushes up and cannot be contained.

People: Guide us in ways we might share your love with the world. When we feel distant from you, help us to search our hearts and to understand you are always with us. Keep us to your ways of love, justice, and peace. Remind us the need to forgive others and seek forgiveness in you. Hold us close to you in this season of Lent, that we might understand your presence in a new 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 Kent Woods

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. 419 (1)
HOLY MANNA

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠HYMN OF GOING FORTH No. 195
HAMBURG
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

✠BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Johann Sebastian Bach
Fugue in C minor

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 by friends in memory of Judith Bolton.

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: "Can't I worship on the golf course or at Sunday brunch?" We are so pleased that you are in worship with us today. Let us focus our attention and thanksgiving on the one, eternal God who has created us and binds us together in Christ's love

We welcome and thank Kenneth Lowenberg for his work as substitute organist 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

Rev. Dr. Sharon Walkins and the General Units of the CC (DoC)

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

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

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. This Sunday we'll continue with week 3 of the Lenten class-we're half way done as we lead up to the "Big Easter" as Rev. Gentle put it the Sunday before Lent. This week's class will be lead by Rev. Moore. If you go through the sanctuary toward the nursery you'll run into a circle of chairs reserved for you in Fellers Foyer!

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.

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

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 29

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 30

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

Memorial Service – A memorial service for Howard Sears will be held at 1 p.m. in Phillips Chapel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

In Sympathy – Our prayers go out to Bill Stewart and his family, whose father, Dale Stewart, passed away on Saturday, March 19.

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

Major Excuses for a
Marginal Faith:

Can't I Worship
at Sunday Brunch?

March 27, 2011
11 a.m.



National City Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)