

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Worship Leaders: Barbara Collins and Beverly Goines
Preacher: Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE arr. Miriam Gentle
Meditation on 'Brother James' Air'

Sheep May Safely Graze J.S. Bach
Miriam Gentle, harpist

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 email 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 Healey Willan
Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

✠HYMN OF PRAISE No. 5
AZMON
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

✠OPENING PRAYER Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE PSALM Barbara Collins
No. 734
Psalm 23

SCRIPTURE READING Barbara Collins
NT. p. 97
John 9:1-13, 24-25

ANTHEM Giovanni da Palestrina
Adoramus Te, Christe
We adore thee, O Savior. And we do bless thy name, Jesus;
who by thy holy crucifixion hast redeemed thy people,
who for our sins has suffered. Lord, our God – hearken to thy people.

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
I'll Believe It Only When I See It

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. 586
OPEN MY EYES
Open My Eyes, That I May See

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Gordon Jacob
Brother James' Air
The text of this anthem is a paraphrase of Psalm 23

✠DOXOLOGY No. 46
OLD HUNDREDT
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 Beverly Goines

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE Michelle Jezycki
Elder: Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness.

People: Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it. In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy.

Elder: Even though we have lived in darkness, God's light is being poured out for us. Accept the light and love that is freely offered, and be transformed by its healing mercies.

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 Paul Heffron

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. 558 (1)
BRADBURY

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠HYMN OF GOING FORTH No. 503 (1, 2, 5)
ROCKINGHAM

O Christ, the Healer

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.

✠BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Johann Sebastian Bach
Fugue in E 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 pulpit flowers were given by the Strotmans and the Swiharts
and the baptistry flowers were given by Ann Cappiello and Cathy Nowicki
in memory of Howard Sears.

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'll believe it only when I see it." 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

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 email 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; Hilda Reynolds;
Denise Ross; Martha Thompkins; Al Weaver;
and those in military service.

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Mount Olivet Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

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 – Small group led by Bill Travis in the Howland Center

Preschool Lenten Class – is taking this week off and will continue next week with Rev. Steven Moore.

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 Howard Sears will be held at 1 p.m. in Phillips Chapel.

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, APRIL 5

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. This week we will explore "*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*" - John 10:11. We meet in Hilda's gift shop at 7 p.m. Come a bit earlier for snacks and socializing. For more information please contact Ann at aneeriemer@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

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

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.

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.

Congregational Update and Luncheon – April 10, 12:30 p.m., Scott Hall. Sign-up sheets are in the Atrium or you may call the church to make a reservation.

PLEASE SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COLLEEN WALSH

AT cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org OR cajwalsh@gmail.com

Major Excuses for a
Marginal Faith:

I'll Believe it
when I See
it.

April 3, 2011
11 a.m.



National City Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)