



# National City Christian Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2017, at 8:30 a.m.

5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005

202-232-0323

www.nationalcitycc.org

**Welcome to National City Christian Church**, national church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a house of prayer that is open to and affirming of all people. Thank you for joining us in worship. Please fill out the Connect with Us card, and place it in the offering tray.

**Today's pulpit guest:** The Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea is Director of Refugee & Immigration Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with her office located at National City Christian Church. She works to mobilize Disciples congregations around the country to offer hospitality to immigrants, provide refugee resettlement assistance to refugees, seek justice for farm workers, and engage in advocacy on behalf of refugees and immigrants.

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Worship Leaders: Beverly Goines, Valeria Foster, and Noemi Mena

Pulpit Guest: Sharon Stanley-Rea

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beverly Goines

GATHERING MUSIC

*Here I Am to Worship*

Tim Hughes

Refrain:

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,

Here I am to say that you're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,

Altogether wonderful to me.

*(repeat)*

And I'll never know how much it cost

To see my sin upon the cross.

*(repeat)*

*(Refrain)*

✠ OPENING HYMN

*Praise Him! Praise Him!*

No. 93

✠ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Beverly Goines

Leader: Holy God, we confess that at times we have watered down the faith to be a list of rules. We have judged others: deciding who is "worthy" of being in and keeping others out.

**People: Forgive us for our sins. Forgive us for not seeing your way as the way of life for us. Forgive us for not looking inward to judge ourselves, and to live our lives in ways that are pleasing to you. May we follow your light and turn away from our selfish ways. In the name of Christ, the Light of the World, we pray.**

Leader: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. The rod and staff of the Great Shepherd bring us comfort in the valley of the shadow. God is with you. God is leading the way. Follow God, and know you are forgiven, loved, and restored. The banquet table is set for you. Come, accept the invitation, and join the feast.

**Unison: Thanks be to God.**

✠ SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*At the Table*

Richard Smallwood

Come on in where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on.

Come on in where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on.

Joy is here where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on.

Joy is here where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on.

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

Love is here where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on.  
Love is here where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on.

Peace is here where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on.  
Peace is here where the table is spread, and the feast of the Lord is going on.

✘ MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP, WELCOME OF VISITORS

Beverly Goines

CALL TO PRAYER

*Open Our Eyes*

Bob Cull

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.  
(repeat)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Beverly Goines

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.

CHORAL PRAISE

*Safe in His Arms*  
Valeria Foster, soloist

Darius Brooks

## THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Beverly Goines

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent).

Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Paul Baloche

Refrain:

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see you, I want to see you;

*(repeat)*

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory;  
Pour out your power and love as we sing, "Holy, holy, holy."

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

SERMON

*Mud In Your Eye?*

Sharon Stanley-Rea

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.

✠ INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*Trust and Obey*

No. 556 (1, 3, 4)

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,  
what a glory he sheds on our way!

While we do his good will, he abides with us still,  
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus,  
but to trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of his love  
until all on the altar we lay;  
for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows,  
are for them who will trust and obey.

*refrain*

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,  
or we'll walk by his side in the way;  
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;  
never fear, only trust and obey.  
*refrain*

## THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S GRACE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING  
PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Noemi Mena  
Mary Paradise  
Natalie Carson

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Noemi Mena

### SHARING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS

The Lord's Supper is for all believers in Christ Jesus. Please come forward down the center aisle as directed by the Deacons. Baskets are available at the front for your offering and "Connect With Us" cards. When receiving communion, take a piece of bread or wafer, dip it into the cup, and partake. After you have received the Lord's Supper, please return to your seat by the side aisle.

COMMUNION HYMN

*In Remembrance of Me*

No. 403

## THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠ BENEDICTION

Beverly Goines

✠ CLOSING HYMN

*Jesus, the Light of the World* Charles Wesley & George Elderkin  
Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Jesus, the light of the world;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord, Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain:

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,  
Shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

Following the worship service, pastors and elders are at the back and side doors of the Sanctuary to greet you. All are invited to the Atrium for coffee fellowship immediately following the service.