



National City Christian Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2017, at 11 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 service is approximately 75 minutes.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Worship Leaders: Kathryn Farley, Beverly Goines, Kenneth Lowenberg, and Sterling Washington

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

PRELUDE

Air

Gerre Hancock
(1934-2012)

MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME

Stephen Gentle

✠ OPENING HYMN

Morning Has Broken

No. 53
BUNESSAN

✠ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Kathryn Farley

Leader: Come away from the burdens of the world,

People: Find rest in Jesus, and be renewed in the Spirit.

Leader: Come away from the judgments of this world,

People: Find freedom in Christ, and hope of new life now.

Leader: Come away from the way of sin in this world,

People: Love God, love your neighbor, and seek forgiveness.

Unison: Come, let us worship God, who leads us into new life. Amen.

✠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Glory Be to the Father

No. 35
GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Kathryn Farley

Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

The Seed That Falls on Good Ground (Psalm 65)
 Please repeat the refrain after the cantor and again after each verse.



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 Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723406.

You visit the earth, give it water; you fill it with riches.
 God's ever-flowing river brims over to prepare the grain. **R.**

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows;
 you level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth. **R.**

You crown the year with your bounty. Abundance flows in your pathways;
 in pastures of the desert it flows. The hills are girded with joy. **R.**

The meadows are clothed with flocks. The valleys are decked with wheat.
 They shout for joy; yes, they sing! **R.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Kathryn Farley

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

HYMN

No. 586 (2)

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
 and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
 Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

SERMON

Stephen Gentle

Horticulture and Human Soil

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO 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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

No. 86

FAITHFULNESS

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY SOLO

This Little Light of Mine

African American Spiritual
arr. John W. Work

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the night I'm gonna let it shine.

✘ DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 47

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beverly Goines

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Ann Neeriemer
Loretta Franklin

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

This table is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Please come forward by the center aisle as directed. When receiving communion, take the bread and dip it into the cup. Return to your seat by the side aisle. If you prefer to remain seated, communion will be brought to you.

Beverly Goines

COMMUNION HYMN

According to Thy Gracious Word

No. 402 (1)

DUNDEE

According to thy gracious word, in meek humility,
this will I do, my dying Lord, I will remember thee.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✘ GOING FORTH

God of the Fertile Fields

No. 695

ITALIAN HYMN

✘ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

POSTLUDE

Bishops' Promenade

Norman Coke-Jephcott

(1893-1962)

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 and fellowship immediately following the service.

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Pilgrimage Christian Church
Suitland, Maryland

GLOBAL MINISTRIES PRAYER CONCERNS

Jerri Handy, Mexico

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Willie Alexander; Fay Arrington; Steven Baines;
Armin Bondoc; Katie Campbell-Morrison; Dorothy Davis;
Eddie Franklin; Sue Frost; Constance Jennings;
Courtney & Betty Jones; Tawanna Lloyd;
Kenneth Lowenberg; Chau Minh Nguyen;
Robin Schacht; Lilly Stewart;
persons in military and civil service around the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers were given by Kathy Swihart in memory of Duane Swihart.

Celebrate Dr. Gentle's Service to National City - As Moderator Jane Campbell announced at our service on July 9, we are organizing a gift for Dr. Gentle in honor of his "11 and a half" anniversary. Jane said she had just become moderator at Dr. Gentle's 10th anniversary and had overlooked a celebration then. She has arranged for Dr. Gentle and Miriam to be the chaplains at the Disciple House on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institution from August 19-28 and Jane would love to present the gift on August 12. Gentry Alexander, our treasurer, has established an account at the church for this purpose so that contributions can be made to the church.

Cats Needing Home -- Longtime Gospel Choir member Annice Majette is moving where she can't have pets and urgently needs someone to "rehome" her two brother cats that are "good company." Please call Annice at 202-361-8539 if you can help.

FOR OUR GUESTS

EN ESPAÑOL - Culto en la Capilla Phillips, Domingo 11 a.m.

Membership at National City Christian Church - 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 memberships are available. Please feel free to talk with any minister or email 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.

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 202-232-0323 during office hours.

CONNECT WITH US

Visit www.nationalcitycc.org and click the "sign up" tab to subscribe to our email list.

Get Social - Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @nationalcitycc

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 16

Christian Pathways - 10 a.m., Community Room.
Sanctuary Tour - 12:15 p.m. Meet at the back of the Sanctuary, near the President Garfield Memorial Window, for a special guided tour of National City.
Deaconesses Meeting - 12:30 p.m., 3rd Floor Conference Room

MONDAY, JULY 17

Prayer call at 6 a.m. - All are invited to join the weekly conference prayer line for National City. Simply dial 712-775-7031, enter access code 371015. For more information, contact Loretta Tate at 202-489-2020.

TUESDAY, JULY 18

DCCADV Meeting - 12 p.m., Community Room
YouthCue - 6 p.m., Sanctuary, Music Suite
Gospel Choir Rehearsal - 7 p.m., Music Suite

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

Toddler Playgroup - 9:30 a.m., Community Room
Food Pantry - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Atrium
YouthCue - 9 a.m., Sanctuary, Music Suite
ANC F2 Meeting - 7 p.m., Howland Center

THURSDAY, JULY 20

YouthCue - 9 a.m., Sanctuary, Music Suite
DCCADV Meeting - 9 a.m., Community Room
DC Lambda Squares - 6:30 p.m., Scott Hall

FRIDAY, JULY 21

DCCADV - 2 p.m., 3rd Floor Conference Room
Bible Study in Spanish - 7 p.m., Atrium

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Steve Patterson Memorial Service - 11 a.m., Sanctuary