



National City Christian Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 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.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Worship Leaders: Beverly Goines, Valeria Foster, and C.J. Rodriguez

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stephen Gentle

GATHERING MUSIC

I Love You, Lord, Today

William F. Hubbard

I love you. I love you, I love you, Lord, today
Because you care for me in such a special way.
And yes, I praise you. I lift you up. I magnify your name.
That's why my heart is filled with praise.

My heart, my mind, my soul belong to you.
You paid the price for me way back on Calvary.
And yes I praise you. I lift you up. I magnify your name.
That's why my heart is filled with praise.

I Will Call Upon the Lord

Michael O'Shields

I will call upon the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised.
So shall I be saved from my enemies.
I will call upon the Lord.
(repeat)

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
(repeat)

✠ OPENING HYMN

Marching to Zion

No. 707

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King
May speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad.

Refrain

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields,
Or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets.

Refrain

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
We're marching thru Emmanuel's ground, we're marching thru Emmanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high.

Refrain

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

✘ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Beverly Goines

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.

✘ SONG OF THANKSGIVING

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

For He alone is worthy, for He alone is worthy,

For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.

✘ MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP, WELCOME OF VISITORS

Stephen Gentle

CALL TO PRAYER

Sweet Hour of Prayer!

No. 570

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

I Just Can't Make It By Myself

arr. V. Foster

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Beverly Goines

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 OF PREPARATION

The Crowd Gathered

Lavon Bayler

The crowds 'round Jesus gathered to listen as he taught
of seeds a sower scattered and yields beyond their thought.

For God will bring the harvest of fruits a hundredfold
despite resistant hardness and all that we withhold.

God's word is on our hearing, as sees are for the soil,
but much is interfering, God's harvest to despoil.
Like thorns, the world's distractions choke out the truth we seek,
for wealth has its attractions and cares can leave us weak.

O God, grant understanding and willingness to learn,
so soil where seeds are landing may yield a high return.
May depth and strong endurance accompany our joy,
and Love give reassurance no evil can destroy.

SERMON

Horticulture and Human Soil

Stephen Gentle

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

Come to Jesus

Traditional

The crowds 'round Jesus gathered to listen as he taught
Of seeds a sower scattered and yields beyond their thought.

For God will bring the harvest of fruits a hundredfold
Despite resistant hardness and all that we withhold.

God's word is on our hearing, as seeds are for the soil,
But much is interfering, God's harvest to despoil.
Like thorns, the world's distractions choke out the truth we seek,
For wealth has its attractions and cares can leave us weak.

O God, grant understanding and willingness to learn,
So soil where seeds are landing may yield a high return.
May depth and strong endurance accompany our joy,
And Love give reassurance no evil can destroy.

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S GRACE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING

C.J. Rodriguez

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Willie Alexander
Miriam Gentle

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

C.J. Rodriguez

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

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

No. 419

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

✠ CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Is The Answer

Andraé Crouch

Jesus is the answer for the world today.
Above him there's no other. Jesus is the way.
Jesus is the answer for the world today.
Above him there's no other. Jesus is the way!

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