



National City Christian Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 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: Beverly Goines, Kenneth Lowenberg, Michael McMahon,
and Cameron Pennybacker

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

PRELUDE

Fantasia in g minor

Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706)

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Johann Pachelbel

MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME

Stephen Gentle

INTROIT

Robert Wetzler

What Shall I Offer

What shall I offer in return for all God's gifts to me?
Sing, heaven and earth, rejoice and praise God's glorious majesty!

✠ OPENING HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

No. 23

Please join in singing verses 1, 2, 3, and 5. The choir will sing verse 4.

LAUDA ANIMA

✠ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Cameron Pennybacker

Leader: We gather here to worship God;

People: Guide our minds to focus on you, O God.

Leader: We gather here to follow Jesus;

People: Guide our actions, that they might fulfill your commandments, O God.

Leader: We gather here to serve the Lord;

Unison: Open our hearts, that we might be filled with your love and compassion, O God, as we worship you on this Lord's Day.

✠ CONGREGATION RESPONSE

Glory to God

No. 34

The choir sings the response first, then all sing three times.

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Cameron Pennybacker

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

PSALM

O Lord, You Are My God and King (Psalm 145)

JERUSALEM

The choir will sing verse 1. Please join in singing verses 2 and 3.



1. O Lord, you are my God and King, and I will ev - er bless your name;
 2. How rich in grace are you, O Lord, full of com - pas - sion, mer - ci - ful,
 3. Your works will give you thanks, O Lord; your saints your might - y acts will show,



I will ex - tol you ev - ery day, and ev - er - more your praise pro - claim.
 your an - ger al - ways slow to rise; your stead - fast love you show to all,
 till all the peo - ples of the earth your king - dom, pow - er, glo - ry know.



You, Lord, are great - ly to be praised; your great - ness is be - yond our thought;
 for you are good in all your ways; your crea - tures know your con - stant care.
 E - ter - nal is your king - dom, Lord, for - ev - er strong, for - ev - er sure;



all gen - er - a - tions shall tell forth the might - y won - ders you have wrought.
 To all your works your love ex - tends; all souls your ten - der mer - cies share.
 while gen - er - a - tions rise and die, your high do - min - ion will en - dure.

Text: The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909, alt. Tune: JERUSALEM, LMD. C. Hubert H. Parry, 1916; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987.
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SCRIPTURE READING

Cameron Pennybacker

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to his disciples,] "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Called to Labor in God's Vineyard

1. Called to la - bor in God's vine - yard, Ea - ger to ac - cept the task,
 2. Called to la - bor in God's vine - yard, Not a - lone, but joined as one,
 3. Called to la - bor in God's vine - yard, Help us, Lord, in all we do.

Us - ing ev - 'ry skill and tal - ent, Do - ing all that God would ask,
 Shar - ing com - mon goals and val - ues, Striv - ing till the task is done,
 As the vines are heav - y - lad - en, Send more work - ers called by you.

May we give our - selves com - plete - ly To the work that is at hand,
 May we work with one an - oth - er In a just and hon - est way,
 May our work bear fruit e - ter - nal And our fer - vor nev - er cease,

Of - fer - ing our will - ing serv - ice As the stew - ards of the land.
 Wheth - er hired at dawn or sun - set, Not ex - pect - ing great - er pay.
 Till at last, the har - vest gath - ered, We may rest and know your peace.

Text: James J. Chepponis, b. 1956, © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: IN BABILONE, 8 7 8 7 D; *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contredansen*, c. 1710. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723406.

SERMON

Live So God Can Use Me

Stephen Gentle

PASTORAL PRAYER

Stephen Gentle

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.

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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

No. 614
 I'M GONNA LIVE

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Dismiss Me Not Thy Service, Lord
 Alia Waheed Ky, soloist

Austin C. Lovelace

Dismiss me not thy service, Lord, but train me for thy will;
 For even I, in fields so broad, some duties may fulfill;
 And I will ask for no reward, except to serve thee still.
 All works are good, and each is best as most it pleases thee;
 Each worker pleases, when the rest he serves in charity;
 And neither us nor work unblest wilt thou permit to be.

Our Master all the work hath done he asks of us today;
Sharing his service, every one share too his image may;
Lord, I would serve and be your own; dismiss me not, I pray.

Text: Thomas T. Lynch, 1818-1871

✠ DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

No. 50
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beverly Goines

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Teresa Swihart
Loretta Franklin

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Beverly Goines

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Here at Thy Table, Lord
Here at thy table, Lord, this sacred hour,
O let us feel thee near, in loving pow'r;
calling our thoughts away from self and sin,
as to thy banquet hall we enter in.

No. 384 (1)
BREAD OF LIFE

COMMUNION MUSIC

Fugue in d minor

Johann Pachelbel

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠ GOING FORTH

For the Fruit of All Creation

No. 714
AR HYD Y NOS

✠ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

POSTLUDE

Toccata in e minor

Johann Pachelbel

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.

Today's Liturgist -- The Rev. Cameron Pennybacker is the founder and C.E.O. of Diversity Assets, a nonprofit firm focused on social and racial justice initiatives. Rev. Pennybacker has served in parish, ecumenical, and interfaith settings since 1990. His career includes diverse community initiatives in the healthcare, housing, education, cultural arts, religious, and non-profit sectors. A graduate of the Interdenominational Theological Center and ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Pennybacker lives in Macon, Georgia, with his wife Sumitra, a professor at Middle State Georgia University.