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: Valeria Foster, Stephen Gentle, and C. J. Rodriguez

Guest Preacher: Miriam Gentle, pastor of Congregational Care at the Village Church at Greenspring Retirement Community

CALL TO WORSHIP
Stephen Gentle

GATHERING MUSIC
We Have Come into His House
Bruce Ballinger

We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship him;
We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship him;
We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship Christ the Lord.

So, forget about yourself, concentrate on him and worship him.
So, forget about yourself, concentrate on him and worship him.
So, forget about yourself, concentrate on him and worship Christ the Lord.

Worship him, Christ the Lord.

O Give Thanks
J. Christie-McAllister

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; yes, He is good.

For He is worthy, worthy; for He is good; yes, He is good.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for HE is good; yes, He is good.

For He is worthy, worthy; for He is good; yes, He is good.

OPENING HYMN
Called as Partners in Christ’s Service No. 453

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE
C.J. Rodriguez

Leader: We come together in this holy space because of God;
People: We are created and sustained by the power of God’s love.
Leader: We have come together because of Jesus;
People: We accept his example that shows us what life means.
Leader: We come together because of the Spirit;
People: We experience the presence that inspires us and blesses our fellowship.
Unison: Through the blessings of the Holy Spirit, let us worship God through Jesus, the Christ.

(☆ Please stand as you are able.)
Song of Thanksgiving  Jesus, We Just Want to Thank You  Gloria & William Gaither

Jesus, we just want to thank you; Jesus, we just want to thank you;
Jesus, we just want to thank you, thank you for being so good.

Jesus, we just want to praise you; Jesus, we just want to praise you;
Jesus, we just want to praise you, praise you for being so good.

Jesus, we just want to serve you; Jesus, we just want to serve you;
Jesus, we just want to serve you, serve you for being so good.

Moment of Friendship, Welcome of Visitors  Stephen Gentle

Call to Prayer  You Can’t Beat God Giving  Doris Akers

You can’t beat God giving, no matter how you try.
And just as sure as you are living and the Lord is in heaven on high,
the more you give, the more he gives to you.
Just keep on giving because it’s really true
that you can’t beat God giving, no matter how you try.

Pastoral Prayer  C.J. Rodriguez

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  Koinonia  V. Michael McKay

The Community Hears God’s Word  C.J. Rodriguez

Scripture Reading  2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Hymn of Preparation  For the Life That You Have Given  Carl P. Daw, Jr.

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
With these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
Here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.
Partners in Mission

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

God of the Fertile Fields No. 695

The Community Responds to God’s Grace

Invitation to Communion and Offering
Stephen Gentle

Prayers for the Bread and Cup
James Ferguson
Mary Ferguson

Words of Institution
Stephen Gentle

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
Down at the Cross
Elisha Hoffman

Down at the cross where my Savior died,
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,
There to my heart was the blood applied. Glory to His name!

Refrain
Glory to His name, precious name.
Glory to His name, precious name.
There to my heart was the blood applied.
Glory to His name!

I am so wondrously saved from sin,
Jesus so sweetly abides within;
There at the cross where He took me in, glory to His name!

Refrain
Come to this fountain so rich and sweet,
Cast thy poor soul at the Savior’s feet;
Plunge in today, and be made complete. Glory to His name!

Refrain

The Community Goes Forth to Serve

Benediction
Stephen Gentle

Closing Hymn
Let the Church Say, “Amen”
Andraé Crouch

Let the church say, “Amen.” Let the church say, “Amen.”
God has spoken. Let the church say, “Amen.”
repeat

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.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES PRAYER CONCERNS
Jeff Wright, Israel/Palestine

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY
Willie Alexander; Fay Arrington; Dorothy Davis; Eddie Franklin; Sue Frost; Helen Gray; Constance Jennings; Courtney & Betty Jones; Taverna Lloyd; Robin Schacht; Lily Stewart; Jessica Sylvester; David Williams; persons in military and civil service around the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The flowers were given by Kathy Swihart in honor of Teresa Swihart’s birthday and Carla & Bill Wilson’s anniversary.

Pulpit Guest: The Reverend Miriam Gentle is Pastor of Congregational Care at The Village Church at Greenspring Retirement Community, Springfield, Virginia. She is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary and ordained at National City Christian Church where she is presently serving as an Elder.

Sunday’s Message: Working on God’s kingdom here on earth means partnering with others. “Koinonia” or fellowship means that we partner with God and others, to bring God’s message of love and shalom to all. Who are you partnering with?

Commitment Sunday: On this day, you are invited to prayerfully make an estimate-of-giving for 2018. Sharing your giving plans helps our leaders to faithfully prepare for the ministries and mission for next year. An estimate-of-giving represents your best intentions based on what you know at this present time. At any time it can be adjusted, should circumstances change. Our Commitment Sundays are October 15, 22, and 29. Thank you for sharing!

UPCOMING EVENTS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - 9 a.m., Music Suite.
Christian Pathways - 10 a.m., Large Atrium.
Toddler Class - 10 a.m., 2nd Floor Work Room. Barbara Kelley and Aixa Diaz, leaders
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.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16
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, OCTOBER 17
National Children’s Chorus - 4 p.m., Music Suite, Howland Center, Community Room
DMV Sanctuary Meeting - 6:30 p.m., 3rd Floor Conference Room
Gospel Choir Rehearsal - 7 p.m., Music Suite

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18
Toddler Playgroup - 9:30 a.m., Community Room
Food Pantry - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Atrium
Fortissima Choir Rehearsal - 7 p.m., Music Suite

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19
DC Lambda Squares - 6:30 p.m., Scott Hall
LGBTQ Happy Hour - 6 p.m., at Uproar, 639 Florida Ave., NW. Suggested donation minimum donation of $10 to benefit Center Global, which advocates for and acts on behalf of LGBTQ refugees.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20
Music at Midday - 12:15 p.m., Sanctuary, free. John Walker, former President of the American Guild of Organists, will perform organ works by Louis Vierne, Pierre Cochereau (transcription), Chelsea Chen, and John Knowles Paine.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - 9 a.m., Music Suite.