



National City Christian Church Reformation Sunday

October 29, 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.



About Today's Service

This week Christians commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther nailed his famous ninety-five theses to the church door in Wittenberg Castle and set in motion the events that led both to reform and fracture of the church.

Today's service includes the four movements of Sunday worship that have come to be embraced by the ecumenical church, as followers of Jesus seek unity in Christ: Gathering, Word, Lord's Supper, and Sending.

The Word service today is an extended meditation on six themes of the Reformation. For each theme we will hear a reading from Scripture and a reflection from a reformer or church leader. The reading and reflection will be followed by a psalm, hymn, or anthem sung by the congregation and/or choir. The Word service concludes with prayers for the church and the world and then an invitation to discipleship.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper includes both elements that are customary for the Disciples of Christ and others that have become part of a broad ecumenical consensus about sharing at the Lord's table. Careful study of the New Testament and practices of the ancient church reveal a pattern that follows Jesus' own actions of taking (placing the gifts on the table), blessing (prayer of thanksgiving), breaking, and sharing (eating and drinking).

The commemoration of the Reformation is not merely a historical recall, but an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of reformation in the church today. How is God calling us to be transformed and renewed in this age? How can we open ourselves to the unity for which Jesus prayed and which God's Spirit is summoning us?

Worship Resources for Today's Service:

The Response of the People was adapted from *Sundays and Seasons* (Augsburg Fortress, 2017). The Prayers at the Table were adapted from *Chalice Worship* (Chalice Press, 1997).

WE GATHER AND PREPARE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stephen Gentle

GATHERING MUSIC

Dennis L. Jernigan

You Are My All in All

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the Treasure that I seek,
You are my All in All.

Seeking you as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool,
You are my All in All!

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

I Will Call Upon the Lord

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)

Michael O'Shields

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

No. 272

AURELIA

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.

Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

✧ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Beverly Goines

Leader: Blessed be God who fashions us, heals us,
and gathers us this day in the name of Christ.

People: Blessed be the God who reforms us again and again.

Leader: Source of all life, we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.

People: We fear that we are not good enough.

Leader: We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.

People: We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.

Leader: Forgive us. Stir us.

**People: Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Glorraine Moone

Unity

Refrain:

Unity, unity, Lord, we pray for unity.

Unity, unity, Lord, we pray for unity.

MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME

Stephen Gentle

CALL TO PRAYER

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.

INTRODUCTION

Stephen Gentle

We remember today the witness of Martin Luther 500 years ago this week to God's grace and to the constant need for the church to be reformed and renewed. And so, on this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. We listen and reflect on God's word and the writings of leaders and reformers of the church as we pray for the day that all Christians will be one at the Lord's table.

WE LISTEN, REFLECT, AND RESPOND

I. COVENANT AND REFORM

C.J. Rodriguez

From the book of the prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34): The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

From Dr. Agnes Abuom, Moderator of the World Council of Churches: What is reformation, one may ask? Reformation is a process of renewal, change, restoration, etc. It is a process that touches on beliefs, faith, and practice as well as the nature and scope of relationships. To reform, in other words, is to transform, and organizational and human life are bound to undergo change. A bird's eye view of our current context today may be slightly different from five hundred years ago but many of the issues of the time have taken on new forms in our church structures around the world. Therefore reformation today is an imperative because we have practices, beliefs, systems, and policies in our churches and society that call us to protest and re-order our way of life, relationships, and use of power.

HYMN

Eddie Espinosa

Change my Heart, O God

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay;

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

II. GOD'S GRACE AND JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Beverly Goines

From the letter of Paul to the Romans (3:19-28): Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

From Hans Wiersma, Augsburg College: Grace is an essential part of Christian theological reflection... Scripture testifies that the Creator remains gracious – that God desires to be in relationship with human beings despite their sin... The many dimensions of Luther's biblical teaching and theological reflection have in the background a desire to understand God's grace most fully revealed in Jesus Christ. As such, Luther's concepts of the righteousness of God, justification by faith, the bound will, the distinction of law and gospel, the new obedience, the “happy exchange,” and many related concepts are, at heart, attempts to describe what is to have a God of grace.

HYMN

No. 546

Amazing Grace!

NEW BRITAIN

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

III. THE SONG OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Valeria Foster

From the letter of Paul to the Colossians (3:12-17): As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

From Martin Luther: Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

CHORAL PRAISE

Richard Smallwood

Everything That Hath Breath Lolita Neal, soloist

IV. THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BAPTIZED BELIEVERS

Miriam Gentle

From the first letter of Peter (2:4-5, 9-10): Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

From Martin Luther: All Christians are truly of the spiritual estate, and there is no difference among them except that of the office, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12 that we are all one body, yet every member has its own work by which it serves the others. This is because we all have one Baptism, one Gospel, one faith, and are all Christians alike; for the Baptism, Gospel and faith alone make us spiritual and a Christian people.

HYMN

No. 65

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,
our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe,
with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth without an equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
but there is one who takes our side, the one of God's own choosing.

You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he
with mighty pow'r to save, victorious o'er the grave,
Christ will prevail triumphant!

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us.

The powers of darkness grim, we tremble not for them;
their rage we can endure, for lo, their doom is sure:
One little word shall fell them.

God's word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, through Christ, who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still,
God's reign endures forever.

V. TRUTH AND FREEDOM

Jane Campbell

From the Gospel of John (8:31-36): Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

From Thomas Campbell, early leader of the Disciples movement, 1831: The first reformers...maintained that the faith of Christians was to be determined by the word of God alone; they had recourse to reason and argument, to the rules of sound criticism, and to the authority and light of history. They translated the Scriptures into the popular languages of different countries, and appealed to them as the only test of religious truth. They exhorted Christians to judge for themselves, to search, to break asunder the bands of ignorant oppression and lawless authority.

HYMN

No. 635 (1, 2)

Faith of Our Fathers

Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word!

Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.

The martyrs bound in prison chains were still in heart and conscience free,
and bless'd would be their children's fate
if they, like them, should live for thee!

Faith of our martyrs, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.

VI. UNITY

Beverly Goines

From the Gospel of John (17:20-23): Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

From Thomas Campbell, 1809: The Church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one; consisting of all those in every place that profess their faith in Christ and obedience to him in all things according to the Scriptures. Although the Church of Christ upon earth must necessarily exist in particular and distinct societies, locally separate one from another, yet there ought to be no schisms, no uncharitable divisions among them, and for this purpose they ought all to walk by the same rule and to be perfectly joined together in the same mind.

From the Second Vatican Council, 1964: The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only. However, many Christian communions present themselves to the world as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but differ in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ Himself were divided. Such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

No. 494

ST. BRENDAN'S

They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

refrain

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:

refrain

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

refrain

WE TAKE, BLESS, BREAK, AND SHARE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING

Stephen Gentle

PRAYER FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Miriam Gentle
Jane Campbell

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

Craig Courtney

One Faith, One Hope, One Lord

One faith, one, hope, one Lord, one church for which he died,
One voice, one song we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be evermore.
There is one body, one Spirit, as you were called to one hope,
one Lord, baptism, and faith, one God and Father of all, who is in you all.
Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts,
we are given to each other for the unity of faith,
that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ.

Text: Based on Ephesians 4:4-6,13

WE ARE SENT FORTH TO WITNESS AND SERVE

BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

GOING FORTH

Bob Gillman

Bind Us Together

Refrain:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together,
Bind us together with love.

There is only one God,
There is only one King;
There is only one Body,
That is why we sing:
refrain

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

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

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Retired clergypersons, those clergy who serve non-congregational settings, seminarians and persons under care by the Commission on the Ministry.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES PRAYER

Andy Jepson, Sri Lanka

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday -- One Service, One Time at 10 a.m. Gather with the saints on All Saints Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, as we welcome our new **General Minister and President Teresa Hord** Owens to the pulpit and dedicate the new Oscar Haynes Exhibit. Brunch for everyone follows the gala events. \$10 suggested donation.

The flowers were given by Darrell Ertzberger in memory of Dewey C. Childs.

2018 Giving - Members and friends are invited to complete the 2018 Estimate of Giving forms and place it in today's offering.

Thanksgiving Special Offering - On November 12 and 19, we will be collecting the Thanksgiving Offering. This offering goes directly for the support of Disciples universities, colleges, and theological institutions. These gifts help in continuing the tradition of developing leaders for the Disciples churches and community.

Hurricane Relief: We continue to remember our sisters and brothers who are still recovering from the hurricanes, including our friends in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, and other affected islands in the Caribbean as well as the Gulf Coast. Your offering marked "Week of Compassion" goes directly to our church's efforts to provide relief.

Gluten-free Communion Wafers are available in the marked cup on the bread tray.

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](https://www.instagram.com/nationalcitycc)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

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.
Congregational Board Meeting - 12:30 p.m. 3rd Floor Conference Room.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

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 31

Gospel Choir Rehearsal - 7 p.m., Music Suite

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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, NOVEMBER 2

DC Lambda Squares - 6:30 p.m., Scott Hall

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Music at Midday - 12:15 p.m., Sanctuary, **free**. Organist Phillip Lamb, currently a doctoral candidate at Rutgers University, will perform works of Leo Sowerby, Edward MacDowell, and J.S. Bach.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

NCCF Board of Trustees Meeting - 9 a.m. Howland Center, Music Suite, Community Room, Atrium.
Kirkpatrick Lectures - 7 p.m., Sanctuary. Dr. Delores Carpenter, speaking.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Sanctuary & Gospel Choirs Rehearsal - 8:30 a.m., Music Suite.
Unity Service - 10 a.m., Sanctuary
Dedication of the Oscar Haynes Exhibit - 11:30 a.m., Mezzanine, Atrium, Community Room.
Brunch - Noon, Atrium. \$10 donation.
NCCCF Board of Trustees Meeting - 1:30 p.m., Howland Center.

FOR OUR GUESTS

EN ESPAÑOL - Community Room, 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 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. 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.