



# National City Christian Church

## Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

### November 12, 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 John Sparkman

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

PRELUDE

*Wachet auf (Wake, Awake)*

Max Reger  
(1873-1916)

MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME

Stephen Gentle

INTROIT

*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*  
"Wake, awake, for night is flying,"  
the watchmen on the heights are crying.  
Awake, Jerusalem, arise.  
For the Lord comes down all-glorious;  
so strong in grace, in truth victorious.  
The star is ris'n, his light has come.  
Ah come, thou blessed Lord,  
O Jesus, Son of God. Hallelujah!  
Therefore we sing to greet our King;  
forever let our praises ring!

J.S. Bach

✠ OPENING HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

No. 517  
BEECHER

✠ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: We are what God has made us,

**People: Prepared in Christ Jesus for good works.**

Leader: This is not our own doing,

**People: Grace is the gift of God.**

Leader: Come, join in this time of worship:

**People: May we prepare for the good work God has given us; may we prepare to follow Jesus.**

John Sparkman

✠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Glory Be to the Father*

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 with end. Amen. Amen.

No. 35  
GREATOREX

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

# THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

John Sparkman

*Wisdom 6:12-16*

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,  
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,  
and is found by those who seek her.  
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.  
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,  
for she will be found sitting at the gate.  
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,  
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,  
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,  
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,  
and meets them in every thought.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*My Soul Is Thirsting (Psalm 63)*

Anne-Michele Maher, cantor

Please join in singing the refrain after the cantor and again after each stanza of the psalm.

My soul is thirst-ing for you, O

Lord, thirst - ing for you my God.

Text: *The Revised Grail Psalms*, © 2010, Conception Abbey and The Grail, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.;  
Refrain, *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL. Music: Richard Proulx, © 1975, GIA Publications, Inc.  
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O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
For you my flesh is pining,  
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

I have come before you in the sanctuary,  
to behold your strength and your glory.  
Your loving mercy is better than life;  
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

I will bless you all my life;  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;  
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. **R.**

When I remember you upon my bed,  
I muse on you through the watches of the night.  
For you have been my strength;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John Sparkman

*Matthew 25:1-13*

[Jesus answered his disciples,] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

**How Great Thou Art**  
 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
 Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
 and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!  
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
 how great thou art, how great thou art!  
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
 how great thou art, how great thou art!

SERMON

*Be Prepared*

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

*You Are the Way*

DUNDEE



1. You are the way; to you a - lone From sin and death we flee;
2. You are the truth; your word a - lone True wis - dom can im - part;
3. You are the life; the rend - ing tomb Pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4. You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,



And all who would the Fa - ther seek Must seek you faith - ful - ly.  
 You on - ly can in - form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.  
 And those who put their trust in you Not death nor hell shall harm.  
 That truth to keep, that life to win, Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George Washington Doane, 1799-1859, in *Verses for 1851 in Commemoration of the 3rd Jubilee of S.P.G.*, alt.  
 Tune: DUNDEE, CM, from *The Scottish Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615, harm. by Thomas Ravenscroft, 1592-1635 in his *Psalmes*, 1621.

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Keep Your Lamps!*  
 David Robeck, percussion

Spiritual  
 arr. André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
 the time is drawing nigh.  
 Children's don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
 Christian journey soon be over,  
 the time is drawing nigh.

✠ 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

Kathryn Farley  
Steve Cook

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

*In Memory of the Savior's Love*  
In faith and memory here we sing the wonders of his love,  
and thus anticipate by faith the heav'nly feast above.

No. 405 (3)  
SALZBURG

## THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠ GOING FORTH

*O Day of God, Draw Nigh*  
Please join in singing verses 1, 2, 3, and 5. The choir will sing verse 4.

No. 700  
ST. MICHAEL

✠ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

POSTLUDE

*Wachet auf (Wake, Awake)*

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

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.