



National City Christian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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: Valeria Foster and CJ Rodriguez

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stephen Gentle

GATHERING MUSIC

You Are My All in All

Dennis L. Jernigan

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.

When God Is a Child

No. 132

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.

Refrain

When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

We Must Work

Keith Laws

We must work while it is day,
Spreading the word of God as we go along the way.
We must be willing to do God's will,
Spreading the word of God till it reaches throughout the hills.
We must witness to everyone we meet in every song we sing.
We must tell them of the soon coming King.

✠ OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 148

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

- ✘ LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE CJ Rodriguez
 Leader: Come, long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free! From our fears and sins release us, Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
 People: **Long ago the people were given a sign of God’s presence. “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”**
 Leader: God’s promise to us remains sure and true.
 People: **God’s Anointed One will soon walk among us, to lighten our darkness, to restore the joy of our salvation, to save us from our sins.**
 Leader: Four lights now shine in spite of our despair. Jesus is coming soon!
 Unison: **God of mystery, help us accept your gifts of grace. Plant a relentless hope deep in our hearts, so we will be able to embody the Christ-child, when Jesus is birthed anew in our lives. On this Holy day, we offer our resolute worship in his Holy name. Amen.**

- ✘ SONG OF THANKSGIVING *A Candle Is Burning*
A candle is burning, a candle of Love;
 A candle to point us to heaven above.
 The holy Christ child, what a wonderful birth;
 For Jesus has now brought God’s Love down to earth.

- ✘ MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP, WELCOME OF VISITORS Stephen Gentle

- ✘ CALL TO PRAYER *While We Are Waiting, Come* Claire Cloninger
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come;
 Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
 With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
 Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
 Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
 Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

PASTORAL PRAYER CJ 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 *Emmanuel* Norman Hutchins
Mary, Did You Know? Mark Lowry

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING CJ Rodriguez

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Mary's Canticle (excerpt)

Leon Roberts



My be - ing pro - claims the great-ness of the Lord, my
spir - it finds joy in God my Sav - ior.

SERMON

Song of Hope and Healing

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 144 (3, 4)

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S GRACE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING

Stephen Gentle

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Mary Paradise

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

COMMUNION MUSIC

Instrumental Christmas Medley

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✘ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

✘ CLOSING HYMN

Soon and Very Soon

Andraé Crouch

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

(repeat)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

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

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Christian Temple
Baltimore, Maryland

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Michael Joseph, Colombia

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Questions for reflection: Mary's song proclaims that God is lifting up the lowly while scattering the proud, and feeding the hungry while sending the rich away with empty hands. How does this change the way you think about God's coming kingdom of justice and favor? How does this change the way you live?

A daily prayer for this week: Expectant God, Mary sings because she has new life in her, the promise of your salvation. Fill me with hope this day, as I lift my life to you and seek to do your will. Look with favor on our world, and all who are in need, that your love may be magnified as I follow humbly in your way. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

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.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

7 p.m. Prelude of Festive Music
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS - NCCC OFFICES CLOSED

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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Toddler Playgroup - 9:30 a.m., Community Room
Food Pantry - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Atrium

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - 9 a.m., Music Suite.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

NEWS YEAR'S DAY - NCCC OFFICES CLOSED

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)

FOR OUR GUESTS

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

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.