



# National City Christian Church

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### December 24, 2017, at 7 p.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. May the Lord bless you, and bless our life together, as we worship the Lord. The service is approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.

### WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Festive Prelude by  
Sanctuary Choir of National City Christian Church  
J. Michael McMahon, Director  
Kenneth Lowenberg, Organ  
Miriam Gentle, Harp  
David Robeck, Percussion

*Nativity Song* (Organ)      Seth Bingham

*Creator of the Stars of Night*      Plainsong, Mode IV  
Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.  
When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.  
At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven shall call you Lord.

*Blessed Mary "Muire Bheannaithe"* (Harp)      Traditional Irish Carol

*Resonet in Laudibus*      Gregorian Chant, Mode IV  
*The Virgin's Slumber Song*      Max Reger, arr. Richard Proulx

Resonet in laudibus  
Cum jucundis plausibus  
Sion cum fidelibus.  
Apparuit quem genuit Maria.  
Gaudete, gaudete, Christus Natus hodie!  
Gaudete, gaudete, ex Maria Virgine.  
Sion lauda Dominum  
Salvatorem omnium  
Virgo parit Filium.  
Apparuit quem genuit Maria.  
Gaudete, gaudete, Christus Natus hodie!  
Gaudete, gaudete, ex Maria Virgine.

*Let praises ring out  
With joyful accord;  
To Zion's faithful  
Has appeared the child born of Mary.  
Rejoice, Christ is born today!  
Rejoice, of the Virgin Mary!*  
*Zion, praise your Lord,  
The salvation of all;  
The Virgin has borne a son,  
The child of Mary has appeared.  
Rejoice, Christ is born today!  
Rejoice, of the Virgin Mary.*

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus child,  
while amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild.  
And soft and sweetly sings the bird upon the bough.  
Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now.

Happy is the laughter, holy is the silent rest;  
lay thy head in slumber, fondly on thy mother's breast.  
Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!

Text: *Resonet in laudibus*, anonymous, 14<sup>th</sup> century. *The Virgin's Slumber Song*, Martin Boelitz, 1874-1918;  
tr. Edward Teschemacher, ca. 1875-1940.

Contemplation on *Divinum Mysterium* (Organ)

Kenneth Lowenberg

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
Text may be found in the Chalice Hymnal at number 160

ES IST EIN ROS

arr. Michael Praetorius

*That Night in Bethlehem "Don o'íche úd I mBeithil"* (Harp) Traditional Irish Carol

*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*

West Indian Spiritual  
arr. Robert De Cormier

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
and they said that his name was Jesus.  
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes, believer.

The wise men saw where the baby was born...

The angels sang when the baby was born...

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy...

*Christ Child's Lullaby "Taladh Christa"* (Harp) Traditional Scottish Carol

*In dulci jubilo* (Organ)

Marcel Dupré

WELCOME

Dr. Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

CHORAL INTROIT

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Plainsong, Mode V

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
Christ is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he!  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven sing praises; angels and archangels sing!  
And on earth let all the faithful now your joyous anthems ring,  
every tongue Christ's name confessing, countless voices answering,  
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God Creator, and O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore! Amen.

✘ OPENING HYMN

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

No. 150 (1, 2)

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

✘ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Aixa Diaz

Leader: People of God, your waiting in darkness is over.

**People: The Light of God's promise has dawned.**

Leader: Even now the Christ child, Christ the Savior, seeks entrance into our hearts.

**Unison: God of joy and jubilee, fill our hearts with the light of your promise. Come into our hearts with power and compassion, that we might always draw strength from your abiding presence in our lives. Thank you, Holy God, for your gift of love, born to us this night.**

✘ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

No. 128 (5)

CRADLE SONG

*One Candle Is Lit*

Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear,  
and signs of a cross in the distance appear.

The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.

One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.

## WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### SCRIPTURE

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

Aixa Diaz

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Richard Proulx

*All the Ends of the Earth (Psalm 98)*

Anne-Michele Maher and Christ Wilde, cantors

Please repeat the refrain after the cantor and again after each stanza of the psalm.



All the ends of the earth have seen the sav - ing pow - er of God.

English translation of Psalm 98, Copyright © 1963, The Grain (England). Music by Richard Proulx. Copyright © 2011 by GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723406.

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **R.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth  
have seen the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **R.**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-14

Steven Baines

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

✧ HYMN

No. 144

ST. LOUIS

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
  
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.  
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.

*Choir alone:*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.  
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20

Steven Baines

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam

Alia Waheed Ky, soloist; Ray Valido, pianist  
Oh, holy night, the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices!  
Oh, night divine, oh, night when Christ was born!  
Oh, night divine, oh, night, oh, night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another;  
 His law is love and His Gospel is peace.  
 Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother,  
 And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
 Let all within us praise His holy Name!  
 Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise His name forever!  
 His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
 His power and glory evermore proclaim!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Stephen Gentle

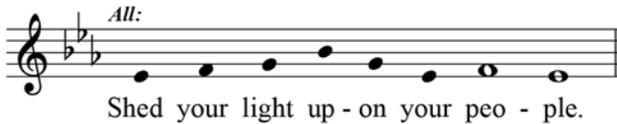
✧ PRAYERS FOR ALL PEOPLE

Sterling Washington, cantor

*Leader:* May our gracious God, whose light shines in the darkness of our lives, the One who formed creation, now hear the prayers we offer this night for all people.

*Cantor:* *Shed your light upon your people.*

**All:**



*Leader:* Shed your light, O God, on people who live under the shadow of violence and fear, that they may walk in the bright light of hope.

*Cantor:* *We pray to you, O Lord:*

**All:** ***Shed your light upon your people.***

*Leader:* Shed your light on all believers in Jesus, including our regional ministers, Rev. Allen Harris, and the regional ministry staff, so that they proclaim good news for all the people, and open their hearts in welcome to all.

*Cantor:* *We pray to you, O Lord:*

**All:** ***Shed your light upon your people.***

*Leader:* Shed your light on all the nations of the world to overcome division among races and nations and draw the human family together in peace.

*Cantor:* *We pray to you, O Lord:*

**All:** ***Shed your light upon your people.***

*Leader:* Shed your light on all those in need: on the sick, the poor, and the grieving, on the hungry and the homeless, on refugees and migrants, on those who are imprisoned, unemployed, or lonely, on those who serve away from home and country, and on all who suffer in spirit, mind, or body, including those listed in our prayer concerns.

*Cantor:* *We pray to you, O Lord:*

**All:** ***Shed your light upon your people.***

*Leader:* Shed your light, O God, on all of us who gather for worship this night, that we may be joyful witnesses of your love in our homes and in our communities.

*Cantor:* *We pray to you, O Lord:*

**All:** ***Shed your light upon your people.***

*Leader:* Eternal God, you spoke and your Word became flesh, breathing a new song of joy and praise into the world. Grant that we may bear the good news of your salvation, proclaiming your promise of peace to the ends of the earth. We make our prayer in the name of the Word-made-flesh, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

✧ HYMN

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

No. 153  
 CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old,  
 from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious King."  
 The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
 and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
 above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
 and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling year shall come the time foretold;  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

## WE COME TOGETHER AROUND THE LORD'S TABLE

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Steven Baines

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Glenn L. Jones

*Good News, the Savior Is Born*  
Alia Waheed Ky, soloist

Jesus was born in Bethlehem without the virgin Mary knowing a man:  
Ain't-a that good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!  
He laid in a manger filled with hay. Oh, what a wonderful Christmas day!  
Ain't-a that good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!

The wise men came to see the Child, he grew up lowly, meek and mild;  
Ain't-a that good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!  
He healed the sick and raised the dead, he fed five thousand with fish and bread;  
Ain't-a that good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!

Good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!  
Christ was born to set me free; paid the price on Calvary.  
Good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!

Good news, ain't-a that good news, Lord!  
The Savior's born in Bethlehem;  
the Prince of Peace, the Precious Lamb.  
He is the King of glory!  
Ain't-a that good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!

Good news, ain't-a that good news, Lord!  
The Savior's born down in-a my soul;  
he picked me up, and made me whole.  
I've got to tell of Emmanuel!  
Ain't-a that good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!

Good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!  
Christ was born to set me free; paid the price on Calvary.  
Good news, my Lord, ain't-a that good news!

✧ DOXOLOGY

*Then Let Us All with One Accord*  
Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
Who made the heav'ns and earth of naught,  
And with his blood our life has bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

THE FIRST NOEL

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Stephen Gentle

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

James Ferguson

Elder: Almighty and gracious God, it is good and right to give you our thanks and praise. You gave us the gift of your Son Jesus, who is the light in this dark world. Born of Mary and conceived by the Holy Spirit, he came into the world to bring us life through his death and resurrection.

People: **With our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.**

Elder: We pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray, saying:

People: **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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Stephen Gentle

This Lord's Table is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Please come forward by the center aisle as directed by the Deacons. Receive communion by taking a piece of bread, and dipping it into the cup, and partaking. After you have received the emblems, please return to your seats by the side aisles.

If for any reason you would prefer to remain in your pew, please do so and the communion will be offered to you in your pew.

**COMMUNION CAROL**

No. 155

GLORIA

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Verse 1-All, Verse 2-Men, Verse 3-Women, Verse 4-All

All sing the refrain at the conclusion of each verse

*All:* Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Men:* Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
*All:* Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Women:* Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.  
Come adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.,  
*All:* Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*All:* See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING**

Stephen Gentle

The light will begin with the first pew and proceed down the center aisle passing the light to each person on the aisle, who, in turn, will pass the light to the next person.

✧ **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

No. 145

STILLE NACHT

*Silent Night, Holy Night*  
Sterling Washington, soloist

*Solo:*

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*All:*

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.

**WE GO FORTH TO REJOICE AND SERVE**

✧ **CAROL OF GOING FORTH**

No. 148

ADESTE FIDELES

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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;  
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; O come . . .

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? O come . . .

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

✠ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

POSTLUDE

Sussex Carol

arr. Dale Wood

***We wish you a very Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year.***

*Please join us for Sunday worship at 8:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.  
Hispanic worship services are at 11 a.m. in the Community Room.*

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## NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rev. Dr. J. Michael McMahon, Minister of Music

Mr. Kenneth Lowenberg, Organist

Rev. Miriam Gentle, *harp*

Mr. David Robeck, *percussion*

### *Sopranos*

Mona Corneiro  
Dorothy Davis  
\*Alia Waheed Ky  
Gina Ramirez  
Sylvia Snyder  
Teresa Swihart  
Kathleen Walker  
Beverly Williams

### *Altos*

Kathleen Burger  
Chieko Cook  
\*Anne-Michele Maher  
Terri Malone  
Carol Richardson

\* *section leaders*

### *Tenors*

Armin Bondoc  
Chrys Lemon  
Bill Stewart, *emeritus*  
Ray Valido  
\*Sterling Washington  
Kent Woods

### *Basses*

Douglas Cook  
Steven Cook  
Tim Cook, *guest*  
Paul Heffron  
David Walker  
\*Chris Wilde