



National City Christian Church

Ascension Sunday

May 13, 2018, 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: Steven Baines, Beverly Goines, Kenneth Lowenberg,
Michael McMahon, and Sadye Sanders

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

PRELUDE *Morning from Peer Gynt Suite No. 1* Edvard Grieg
Paul Heffron, piano (1843-1907)

MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME Stephen Gentle

INTROIT *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* South African
David Robeck, percussion

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

✧ OPENING HYMN *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* No. 95
DUKE STREET

✧ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE Sadye Sanders
Leader: Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,
People: for God reigns over all the earth!
Leader: God has gone up with a shout!
People: Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!
Leader: Sing praise to God; sing praise to our King!
People: God is King over all the world; praise the Lord with songs!
Leader: God sits on the throne and rules over the nations.
People: Let all people assemble with children of the God of Abraham.
Leader: More powerful than all forces is God.
Unison: God rules supreme! Alleluia. Amen.

✧ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Alleluia* No. 106
ALLELUIA

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Sadye Sanders

Luke 24:44-53

Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

(✧ Please stand as you are able.)

Peoples, Clap Your Hands (Psalm 47)
Terri Malone, leader

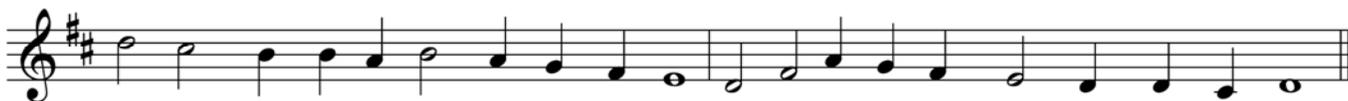
Today's psalm is sung using the method of "lining out," or repeating each line after the leader. This way for congregations to sing psalms and hymns has its roots in post-Reformation Scotland and is still common in African American communities today. This psalm, which Christians have long associated with the Ascension, is a song of exaltation, so sing it with gusto!



1. Peo- ples, clap your hands! Shout to God with joy! King of all the earth is the Lord Most High;
2. God as- cends the throne with a joy- ful cry, and with trum- pet sound has gone up on high;



all hu - man - i - ty stands in awe of God. With a might- y hand God brings na- tions low,
sing your praise to God, sing with joy- ful voice! Rul - ers, peo- ples, now join to serve the Lord;



and be - neath our feet casts down ev - ery foe; our in - her - i - tance comes from God the Lord.
for earth's might - y ones all be - long to God, who ex - alt - ed reigns: now with psalms re - joice!

TEXT: Joy F. Patterson, 1989, © 1990 Joy F. Patterson.

MUSIC: GENEVAN 47, 10.10.10.10.10, Genevan Psalter, 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723406.

SCRIPTURE READING

Sadye Sanders

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

ANTHEM

Don McAfee

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

(b. 1935)

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing: My God and King!
The heav'ns are not too high, his praise may thither fly;
The Church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out:
But more than all the heart must bear the longest part.

Text: George Herbert (1593-1633)

SERMON

Stephen Gentle

Ascension

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

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

No. 233
HYFRYDOL

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

No. 83
JULIAN

Because this may be an unfamiliar tune to many, the choir will sing verse 1 alone.
Congregation and choir join together in singing verses 2 and 3.

✠ DOXOLOGY

O Risen Christ, Ascended Lord

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord, alleluia, alleluia!
You are while endless ages run with Father and with Spirit one, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Steven Baines

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Kent Woods
Terri Malone

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Steven Baines

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.

COMMUNION SONG

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

South African

Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread.
I am wine, I am bread; give to all who thirst and hunger.
Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Last Spring, Op. 33, No. 2

Edvard Grieg

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠ GOING FORTH

Crown Him with Many Crowns

No. 234
DIADEMATA

✠ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

POSTLUDE

Homage March from Sigurd Jorsalfar

Edvard Grieg

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Fay Arrington; Richard Bahr; Katie Campbell Morrison;
Douglas Cook; Dorothy Davis; Eddie Franklin; Tracie Foxx;
Helen Gray; Constance Jennings; Courtney
and Betty Jones; Tawanna Lloyd; Mary Paradise;
Beverly Schacht; Lily Stewart; Esther Tyson;
persons in military and civil service around the world.

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Rockville Christian Church, Rockville, Maryland

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Nia Sullivan, Sierra Leone

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Questions for Reflection for Today's Scriptures: What do we make of the Ascension? We might say that the Ascension stands for the final liberation of Jesus from all limitations of space and time, so that he is free to be lovingly and powerfully present with every person, in every place, and in every age.

Daily Prayer for the Week: Gracious God, reside in my heart this day and give me eyes to see the ways that you are present throughout my day. Put your resurrecting power to work in my life and empower me to be a witness to Christ, that my life may be a song of thanksgiving to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer for Poor People's Campaign - Help National City provide hospitality, beginning tonight. Poor People's Campaign meetings are on Sundays, 6 - 7:30 p.m. If you can volunteer, come to the Atrium front desk between 5 - 5:30 p.m., tonight. Contact sbaines@nationalcitycc.org and thanks!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 13

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - 9 a.m., Music Suite
Christian Pathways Adult Study - 10 a.m., Atrium
Children's Class - 10 a.m., 3rd Floor Classroom. 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.
Poor People's Campaign - 6 p.m., Sanctuary

MONDAY, MAY 14

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.
Whitman-Walker Workshop - 6 p.m., Howland Center

TUESDAY, MAY 15

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

Toddler Playgroup - 9:30 a.m., Community Room
Food Pantry - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Atrium
ANC 2F Meeting - 7 p.m., Howland Center
Fortissima Choir - 7 p.m., Howland Center

THURSDAY, MAY 17

Lambda Squares - 6:30 p.m., Music Suite
LGBTQ Happy Hour - 6 p.m., at Uproar Lounge and Restaurant, 639 Florida Ave., NW. Suggested donation of \$10 to support Brother, Help Thyself.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Music at Midday - FREE! 12:15 p.m, Sanctuary. Basilica organist Benjamin LaPrairie performs works of twentieth century European composers Charles-Marie Widor, Jean Roger-Ducasse, and Joseph Jongen.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - 9 a.m., Music Suite
Dog Blessing - 10 a.m., on The Steps
Pentecost Celebration - Join us on the church steps after the 11 am service for ice cream cake and fellowship.
Poor People's Campaign - 6 p.m., Sanctuary

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.