



# National City Christian Church

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2019, at 10 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. We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us. Please fill out the Connect with Us card, and place it in the offering tray. Today's service is 1 hour and 15 minutes.

### THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Worship Leaders: Steven Baines, Kevin Biggins, Jr., Valeria Foster, and Angelina Ramirez

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

#### GATHERING MUSIC

*Sanctuary*

John Thompson, Randy Scruggs

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;  
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

*repeat*

*I Will Bless Thee, O Lord*

Esther Watanabe

I will bless Thee, O Lord! I will bless Thee, O Lord!  
With a heart of thanksgiving, I will bless Thee, O Lord!  
With my hands lifted up, and my mouth filled with praise,  
with a heart of thanksgiving, I will bless Thee, O Lord!

*repeat*

#### ✧ OPENING HYMN

No. 695

ITALIAN HYMN

*God of the Fertile Fields*

God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread;  
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
that all in ev'ry land be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;  
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care  
for people everywhere, that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, your reign yet grows.  
So let our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,  
no humble task refused your love bestows.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one;  
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you;  
guide all we say and do, till life is done.

#### ✧ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Angelina Ramirez

Leader: Creator God – creating still – in the wonder of your world we experience your providential care  
for the planet and its people.

**People: We offer you our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Creator God – creating still – in the exploitation of your world we recognize our human-centeredness  
and greed.

**People: We confess our sin before you.**

Leader: We acknowledge our need for each other as part of your global family.

**People: And so we pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."**

Leader: Accept our confession, O God, and offer us your forgiveness:

**People: We pray that you will help us be empowered to transform our lives as individuals, churches,  
and nations; proclaim your love for the earth and its people; and repay our ecological debts  
in ways which affirm your justice and shalom. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.**

(✧ Please stand as you are able.)

✘ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 62 (1, 4)  
ST. ANNE

*Creator God, Creating Still*

Creator God, creating still, by will and word and deed,  
create a new humanity to meet the present need.

Great Trinity, for this new day we need your presence still.  
Create, redeem, sustain us now to do your work and will.

**THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Gentle

✘ CALL TO PRAYER

*Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

No. 248 (1, 2)  
ST. AGNES

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Steven Baines

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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Angelina Ramirez

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

ANTHEM

*Creative God, You Spread the Earth*

Setting by Valeria Foster

Creative God, you spread the earth with life in many forms:  
the deer and elk and daffodil, the bee in humming swarms.  
Forgive us for each flow'r and bird now vanished by our hand.  
Teach us to treat with loving care the creatures of the land.

The planet teemed with living things before all human birth,  
and even fire and beasts of prey renewed the life of earth.  
Forgive us, that, the last to come, we threaten sea and air.  
Teach us to tend life's fragile web with wise and tender care.

O playful God, you fill the field with lavender and blue.  
You paint the bird with indigo, with red or tawny hue.  
Forgive us that we grieve your heart, destroying what you do.  
Lord, teach us simpler, gentler ways to live on earth with you.

SERMON

*Caring for God's World*

Stephen Gentle

**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S GRACE**

Those desiring to become members of National City Christian Church, by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, transfer of membership or as an associate member, are invited to come forward during the hymn.

✘ HYMN OF COMMITMENT

*For Beauty of Meadows*

No. 696  
ST. DENIO

For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees, for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,  
for all you created and gave us to share, we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand, as creatures who hear your most urgent command,  
we turn from our wasteful destruction of life, confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace; all nature around us is ours but on lease;  
your name we would hallow in all that we do, fulfilling our calling, creating with you.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Steven Baines

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Praise Him*

Donnie Harper

Refrain

Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Jesus, blessed Savior, he's worthy to be praised.

From the rising of the sun until the going down of the same,  
he's worthy, Jesus is worthy; he's worthy to be praised.

Refrain

Glory! Glory! In all things give him glory.  
Jesus, blessed Savior, he's worthy to be praised.

God is our rock, hope of salvation;  
a strong Deliverer, in him will I always trust.

Refrain

✠ DOXOLOGY

No. 382 (1, 2)  
SCHUMANN

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,  
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first-fruits give.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Stephen Gentle

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Charles Hickman  
Gary Lewis

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

This table is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Please come forward by the center aisle. When receiving communion, take the bread and dip it into the cup. Return to your seat by the outside aisle. Gluten-free communion wafers are available in the smaller silver tray.

If for any reason you would prefer to remain seated, please do so and communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Kevin Biggins, Jr., organ

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE**

✠ HYMN OF GOING FORTH

No. 22

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

LASST UNS ERFEUEN

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing; Alleluia, Alleluia!  
O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam,

Chorus

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O rushing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise God, Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice, you lights of evening find a voice,

Chorus

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your God to hear, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
O blazing fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight,

And all forgiven tender hearts, forgiving others, take your part, sing praises, Alleluia!  
You who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.

Chorus

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

✠ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

***All are invited to the back of the Sanctuary for coffee and fellowship***

POSTLUDE

*Intermezzo in d*

Hermann Schroeder

## PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Fay Arrington; Douglas and Chieko Cook; Byron Cotton; Dorothy Davis; Bill Eldred; Eddie Franklin; Constance Jennings; Cyril Jones; Barbara Kelley; Jim King; Tawanna Lloyd; Harold Magnussen; Drusilla McCain; Sarah Rose; Beverly Schacht; Steve Selde; Kathleen Swihart; Esther Tyson; Beverly Williams; military and civil service persons around the world; and victims of disasters.

## CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Springfield Christian Church  
Springfield, Virginia

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Tom Liddle  
East Timor

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Daily Prayer:** Creator God, you have made all things in heaven and on earth. Help me to appreciate all in your creation and to care for the precious resources of this earth and life. In Jesus' name.

**Vocal Workshop** - Would you like to improve your singing voice? Why not participate in our Vocal Workshop? **Join us on Saturday, September 28 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Music Suite. This workshop is for anyone who wants to improve their singing skills. **There is no requirement to sing in front of other participants, no need to pre-register - just show up ready to learn!** For more information, contact Valeria Foster at [vfoster@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:vfoster@nationalcitycc.org).

**Food Pantry Needs** - NCCC gave out 187 bags filled with food this week to our neighbors in need. Please help us fill up our shelves by dropping off as much of the following in our collection basket in the Atrium as you can: **Applesauce / fruit cups; tuna pouches / pop-top cans; granola bars; cookies; rice krispies treats; peanut butter crackers; cereal bowls; and water bottles / pouches.**

**Reconciliation Offering** - On September 29 and October 6, we will be collecting the second Special Mission Fund offering for the year. The funds collected are used in the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work of the Church. Within the region some of these funds are used to sponsor camp and conferences for adults and youth for education from the cultural and historical experiences of each other.

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**Tithe.ly Mobile Giving** - National City is now on the **Tithe.ly app**. Just search for "National City," complete a quick one-time setup, then all it takes is 3 clicks to give! **Thank you for your generosity!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** - 9 a.m., Music Suite  
**Gospel Choir Rehearsal** - 9:35 a.m., Music Suite  
**Christian Pathways Class** - 9 a.m., Atrium.  
**Children's Sunday School** - 9 a.m., 2nd Floor. Gina Ramirez, teacher  
**Sanctuary Tour** - 11:15 a.m. Meet in the back of the Sanctuary, near President Garfield Memorial Window, for a special guided tour.  
**Adoración en Español** - 11 a.m., Community Room  
**Sunday Brunch!** - Join your National City family for brunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Howland Center!

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

**Moral March Interviews** - 9 a.m.  
**Whitman-Walker Workshop** - 6 p.m., Music Suite  
**Gay Men's Chorus** - 6:30 p.m., Howland Center

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

**National Children's Chorus** - 3 p.m., Atrium, Music Suite, Community Room, Howland Center  
**Gospel Choir Rehearsal** - 7 p.m., Music Suite

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

**Toddler Playgroup** - 9:30 a.m., Community Room  
**Food Pantry** - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Atrium  
**Jim Wallis & Bishop Curry Book Signing Event** - 6 p.m. Sanctuary  
**Fortissima Singers** - 7 p.m., Music Suite

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

**Lambda Squares** - 6:30 p.m., Music Suite

### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

**Music at Midday - Free!** 12:15 p.m., Sanctuary. Inspiring young organist Tyler Canonico (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) will perform works of Joseph Bonnet, Horatio Parker, and Calvin Hampton.

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

**Prayer call at 8 a.m.** - Join the weekly prayer call. Simply dial 712-775-7031, enter code 371015. For information, contact Loretta Tate at 202-489-2020.  
**Vocal Workshop** - 9:30 a.m., Music Suite

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** - 9 a.m., Music Suite  
**Gospel Choir Rehearsal** - 9:35 a.m., Music Suite  
**Worship** - 10 a.m., Sanctuary  
**Congregational Meeting** - 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
**National Children's Chorus** - 2 p.m., Atrium, Music Suite, Community Room, Howland Center

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## FOR OUR GUESTS

**Connect with us** - visit [www.nationalcitycc.org](http://www.nationalcitycc.org) and click the "sign up" tab to subscribe to our email newsletter.

**Get Social** - follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @nationalcitycc.

**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. Associate or student memberships are available as well. Please feel free to talk with any minister or email [sgentle@nationalcitycc.org](mailto: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.