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 CommunityGathers For Worship

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

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

Gathering Music

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

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

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

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.)
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

creator god, creating still

STEVEN GENTLE

CALL TO PRAYER

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, HEAVENLY DOVE

STEVEN BAINES

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

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

GENESIS 1:1-5


ANTHEM

CREATIVE GOD, YOU SPREAD THE EARTH

SETTING BY VALERIA FOSTER

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

STEVEN BAINES

INVITATION TO OFFERING

STEVEN BAINES
Praise Him

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

We Give Thee but Thine Own

No. 382 (1, 2)
SCHUMANN

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

No. 22
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.

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.

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, 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

FOR OUR GUESTS

Connect with us - visit 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.
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.

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