



National City Christian Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 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) - 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, please silence your cell phones.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Worship Leaders: Steven Baines, Kevin Biggins, Jr., Byron Cotton, Valeria Foster, and Beverly Goines

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

PRELUDE *In Dulci Jubilo* Arr. Franz Liszt

GATHERING MUSIC *Christ Is Coming* Edward V. Bonnemere

Christ is coming: Prepare the way. Christ is coming: Prepare the way.

(repeat)

Christ is coming. Christ is coming.

(repeat)

Christ is coming: Prepare the way. Christ is coming: Prepare the way.

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Kenneth Louis



Pre - pare ye, pre - pare ye, _____ pre - pare ye the way of the Lord! _____

✧ OPENING HYMN *Christians All, Your Lord is Coming* No. 136 (1, 2, 4)

Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth.
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth.
Dance and move to show God's glory; kneel and pause to hear God's word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.

Christians all, your Lord is coming, calling you to serve in deed.
See the ones who hurt and suffer, hear their cry and act with speed.
Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.

Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is now at hand.
Let there be no hesitation, walk in faith where life demands.
Bear the word that God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ will come and make you whole.

Text: Jim Miller, 1993

Music: PLEADING SAVIOR; Joshua Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830

✧ LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE Byron Cotton

Leader: We have lighted the three candles of the Advent wreath -- the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

People: Today we light the fourth candle of Advent: the candle of love. In countless ways, Jesus demonstrated self-giving love. Advent is a time for acts of kindness, thinking of others before ourselves, and sharing with others. It is a time to love just as God loved us, by giving us God's most precious gift. As God is love, let us also be love.

Leader: From the Gospel of John: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Unison: Creator God, grant that we may find comfort and peace as we prepare for the annual celebration of our Lord's birth. May divisions in our own hearts, in our families, in our workplaces, and all throughout our world, be peacefully resolved. Help us clearly see the paths of peace in our lives, and give us the courage to follow them. Let us remember that you alone are the giver of lasting peace, and that you are with us always. Amen.

(✧ Please stand as you are able.)

✘ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

SANDRA DEAN
AWAY IN A MANGER

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Gentle

✘ CALL TO PRAYER

No. 144 (4)
ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Beverly Goines

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.

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Byron Cotton

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

ANTHEM

Air for Advent

arr. Tom Fettke

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Come, come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
O let us find our rest in thee. Hope of all the earth thou art, joy of every longing heart.

Born a child and yet a King, born thy people to deliver;
now thy gracious kingdom bring, and reign in us forevermore.

Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee. Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee.

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee. Rejoice!

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Air on the G String* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

SERMON

God With Us

Stephen Gentle

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 following hymn.

✘ HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

No. 164
IN DULCI JUBILO

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S GRACE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Ave Maria
Terri Malone, soloist
Peter Daniels, violinist

Francisco Santiago

✧ DOXOLOGY

Advent Doxology



Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king!



We give back to you an off - ring; you have giv - en us ev' - ry - thing!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Steven Baines

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Tersa Swihart
Steven Cook

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.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✧ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

✧ CLOSING MEDITATION

The Night That Christ Was Born
Sung by the Gospel Choir

Kirk Franklin

Listen to the angels rejoicing ever so sweetly,
receiving heavens glory the night that Christ was born.
Can't you see the shepherds sharing with other nations
the Babe who brings salvation the night that Christ was born.

Oh, such a wonderful Savior to be born in a manger
So that I can share in his favor and my heart be made anew.
Listen to the angels, their light shines in the darkness,
Crying "holy, holy" the night that Christ was born.

Listen to the trumpet shouting through the darkness,
Now behold the Savior the night that Christ was born.

All are invited to the 2nd Floor balcony area for coffee and fellowship.

POSTLUDE

People Look East!

Arr. Kristina Langlois

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Douglas and Chieko Cook; Dorothy Davis;
Eddie Franklin; Helen Gray; Constance Jennings;
Jim King; Tawanna Lloyd; Lucas Lund; Alta Mainer;
Drusilla McCain; Steve Selde; Kathleen Swihart;
Gloria Taylor; Esther Tyson; John Foster Woods;
military and civil service persons around the world;
and victims of disasters.

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Bethany House Senior Housing
Rockville, Maryland

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Mary Kathryn Ball, Ecuador

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daily Prayer: In the light of your Christ, O God, I see myself clearly as your child. Help me to live this day in your wisdom, without fear, without acrimony, but with charity toward those I meet and toward myself when I find I am wanting. Let me know your love is deep and abiding; in Jesus' name.

Christmas Offering is received today and supports the Regional Ministries of the Church. Regional Ministries sponsor camps and conferences which are key to the leadership and development of church leaders.

Upcoming Worship Services - On December 29, the Sanctuary Choir will lead us in a more traditional singing worship service with special Bass soloist, Wesley Gentle, singing *Gesú Bambino*. Like today's music, we will have a blended service on Sunday, January 5. The Gospel Choir will lead us in a gospel style service on January 12.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Sanctuary Choir Warmup - 9 a.m., Sanctuary
Christian Pathways Class - 9 a.m., Atrium
Children's Sunday School - 9 a.m., 2nd Floor. Gina Medina, teacher
Sanctuary Tour - 11:15 a.m. Meet in the back of the Sanctuary, near President Garfield Memorial Window, for a special guided tour.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

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



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY NCCC OFFICES CLOSED

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Weekly Prayer call at 8 a.m. - Simply dial 712-775-7031, enter code 371015. For information, contact Loretta Tate.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

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

Tithe.ly Mobile Giving - National City can receive donations and offerings through the **Tithe.ly app**. Search for "National City," complete a quick, one-time setup, then all it takes is 3 clicks to give! It is also possible to give online at https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give and thank you for your generosity!

FOR OUR GUESTS

Connect with us - visit www.nationalcitycc.org and click the "sign up" tab to subscribe to our email newsletter.

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

Membership at National City Christian Church -

It would be our joy to welcome you into the membership of this congregation. You may join through a 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 a 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.