



National City Christian Church

Transfiguration Sunday

February 23, 2020, 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., Beverly Goines, Alan Williams

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

PIANO PRELUDE *I've Got Peace Like A River* arr. Emma Lou Diemer

GATHERING MUSIC *Holy Ground* No. 112

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now, we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

(repeat)

He Is Exalted

Twila Paris

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him.

He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise his name!

He is the Lord; forever his truth shall reign. Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

(repeat)

BAPTISM *Lorraine Budd* Stephen Gentle

✧ OPENING HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* No. 2

HYMN OF JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou the Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding those of tender heart.
Ever singing, move we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life.

✧ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE Steven Baines

Leader: Great are your works, O Holy One, and greatly to be praised.

People: **Not a day passes without our sensing your presence. You appeared in Jesus, removing the veil from your countenance. You spoke through Christ, that we might know your will.**

Leader: Henceforth we shall behold your glory, O God, as we are led by your Spirit.

People: **We will extol you, O God, and worship at your holy mountain; for you, our God, are holy and worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

(✧ Please stand as you are able.)

Transform Us

PICARDY

Transform us as you, transfigured, once spoke with those holy ones.
We, surrounded by the witness of those saints whose work is done,
live in this world as your Body, chosen daughters, chosen sons.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steven Baines

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 17:1-9

Steven Baines

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

ANTHEM

Precious Lord

arr. Lawrence Schreiber

Alia Waheed Ky, soloist
Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

SERMON

I Love the Church

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 next hymn.

✦ HYMN OF COMMITMENT

*I Love Your Church, O God*No. 274 (1 - 4)
ST. THOMAS**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S GRACE**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Total Praise

arr. Richard Smallwood

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you.
Your peace, you give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength; you are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen.

✦ DOXOLOGY

We Give Thee but Thine Own

No. 382 (1)

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beverly Goines

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Charles Hickman
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

LITANY OF FAREWELL

Alan Williams

Leader: Our church family is constantly changing. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Dr. Gentle who is leaving. On January 2, 2006, this congregation called the Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle to serve as senior pastor.

Minister: *I thank National City Christian Church, its members and friends for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last 14 years. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted and for the good things we have been able to accomplish together. I ask forgiveness for any mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

All: We receive your gratitude, offer forgiveness, and accept the fact that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We too ask your forgiveness for any mistakes we have made. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Minister: *I accept your gratitude, and forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.*

Leader: Do you, the members and friends of National City Christian Church, release Dr. Gentle from the duties of senior pastor?

All: We do, with the help of God.

Leader: Will you offer your encouragement for Dr. Gentle's ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

All: We will, with the help of God.

Leader: Will you, Dr. Gentle, release this congregation from turning to you and depending on you as senior pastor?

Minister: *I will, with the help of God.*

Leader: Will you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and for the relationship this congregation will develop with another who will come to serve after you?

Minister: *I will, with the help of God.*

Leader: Let us pray. O God, for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith, we express our sincere gratitude. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Dr. Gentle in worship, in learning, in service, and in Christian living. We pray that he will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as he moves to a new place in the name of Jesus the Savior.

All: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

✠ HYMN OF GOING FORTH

No. 715

NUN DANKET

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices,
who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us full of grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God our Father and our Mother,
to Christ and to the One who binds us to each other,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

✠ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

J.S. Bach
arr. Virgil Fox

Join us for a reception on the 2nd Floor Mezzanine

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

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

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Retired Clergy and Spouses
in the Capital Area Region

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Dustin Riebel
Ecuador

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's message: Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain, where he is transfigured and talks to Moses and Elijah who appear with him. God proclaims Jesus to be God's beloved son, and afterward, Jesus instructs the disciples not to tell anyone what they have seen until after the resurrection.

Week of Compassion Offering - We will receive a special offering on February 23 for Week of Compassion. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Considering Matthew Shepard - The Washington, D.C. Premiere - Join the Washington and Lee University Singers at **National City on Sunday, March 1, at 3 p.m.** for Craig Hella Johnson's, *Considering Matthew Shepard*, one of the most meaningful recent works of social justice art. This multimedia fusion oratorio uses the featured choir, soloists, instrumentalists, and narrators to tell the tragic story and aftermath of the kidnapping, torture, and death of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming in 1998.

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Sanctuary Choir Warmup - 9 a.m., Music Suite
Christian Pathways Class - 9 a.m., Atrium
Children's Sunday School - 9 a.m., 2nd Floor.
Sanctuary Tour - 11:15 a.m. Meet in the back of the Sanctuary, near President Garfield Memorial Window, for a special guided tour.
Celebration Reception - 12 p.m., the Mezzanine
Pastor Search Committee - 1 p.m., 3rd Floor Conference Room

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Gay Men's Chorus - 7 p.m., Howland Center

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

National Children's Chorus - 3 p.m., Community Room, Howland Center, Music Suite
Gay Men's Chorus - 7 p.m., Sanctuary, Howland Center, 2nd Fl. Conference Room
Gospel Choir Rehearsal - 7 p.m., Music Suite

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

ASH WEDNESDAY

Toddler Playgroup - 9 a.m., Community Room
Food Pantry - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Atrium
Ash Wednesday Service - 7 p.m., Sanctuary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

St. Andrews High School Chorus Concert - 12:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Lambda Squares - 6:30 p.m., Music Suite

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Music at Midday - 12:15 p.m., Sanctuary. **Free!**
Samantha Scheff (Asbury Park, New Jersey) will perform a program of French organ music, featuring works of Marcel Dupré, César Franck, and Louis Vierne.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Considering Matthew Shepard Performance by Washington & Lee University - 3 p.m., Sanctuary

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.

Worship and preaching resources: David Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, ed. *Feasting on the Word* (Louisville: Westminster Press, 2009); Colbert Cartwright and O.I. Cricket Harrison, ed. *Chalice Worship* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1999); *Revised Common Lectionary*, Center for Biblical Preaching, www.workingpreacher.org.