

National City Christian Church
Fifth Sunday of Lent **March 29, 2020**

Prelude *I Will Not Depart From God* Dietrich Buxtehude
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

Welcome and Announcements Beverly J. Goines

Opening Hymn *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* MORECAMBE
Spirit of God, descend upon my heart,
free it from sin, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

Did you not bid us love you, God and King,
love you with all our heart and strength and mind?
I see your cross—there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Response of the People (Psalm 91) Steven Baines

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

People: For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Leader: You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

People: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Congregational Response *Lead Me, Guide Me*
Lead me, guide me along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
(repeat)

Pastoral Prayer (followed by The Lord's Prayer in Unison) Beverly J. 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.

Scripture Reading John 11:30-45 Steven Baines

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **Jesus began to weep.** So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Solo *God Will Take Care of You* Civila D. Martin
Valeria Foster

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

Refrain

God will take care of you, through ev'ry day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you.

Refrain

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;
lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you.

Refrain

Message *A Weeping Savior* Steven Baines

Hymn of Commitment *Here I Am, Lord*

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Invitation to Holy Communion and Words of Institution Beverly J. Goines

If you have bread and juice to use at your home, we invite all to participate in Holy Communion
after the minister offers Words of Institution and Prayer for the Elements.

Hymn of Going Forth *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Benediction Steven Baines

Postlude *Maestoso* Hermann Schroeder
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scripture Thought: During our current climate of a deadly pandemic when grief and death are all too real for us as Christians, the shortest verse in the Bible seems to leap from the page and reminds us, Jesus understands. The divinity of our Savior could have easily reached into the tomb of Lazarus and emerged as some sort of healer, magician, or wizard. Instead, Jesus sits and cries, and was even reprimanded by his friends asking why he wasn't there sooner. Do we utter the same words today, "why, Jesus, weren't you here sooner?"

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Our Daily Prayer - Jesus, you are the one who understands all things, and we are the ones with all the questions. In these times of physical isolation, we need your healing touch again. We need your tears of friendship when ours have run dry. Come to us again, "the prince of peace," "the newborn king," "the master of the grave," and spring life into our weary souls. Bring us closer to you, the son of light and life and fill our spaces with the light of your Father. Amen.

Virtual Easter Lily Donations - No, we will not be gathering in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday services, but let's still use this glorious Christian occasion to not only remember loved ones who have departed or those still living who give us encouraging words, but also raise some extra funds for the congregation.

If you would like to place a virtual lily in honor or memory of someone, please donate \$20 via check mailed to our church address, C/o Easter Lily, or on tithe.ly, choose memorial gift in the give to line, and then in the note section, tell us who the lily is in memory or honor of. We will print all the names in our virtual Easter morning worship service bulletin available for download and print.

All church activities and outside organizational events scheduled at National City Christian Church are cancelled until May 30, 2020.

The Board of National City Christian Church decided unanimously on March 19 to keep our church closed for all activities until May 30, honoring CDC guidelines to refrain from gathering in public spaces for eight weeks. While this decision is heartbreaking for us and all of the congregation, we know it is absolutely necessary as stewards of the greater community good. We must set the example and continue to find creative ways to stay connected with each other.

We hope to resume in-person worship services on Sunday, May 31, which appropriately is Pentecost Sunday. We can think of no better way to celebrate the birthday of Christ's church than returning to our beautiful sanctuary at 10 a.m. in praise and worship

for God's provision and faithfulness.

If your Board can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of our pastoral staff.

In Christ's Service,
Alan Williams, Moderator

Message from Your Pastors

During these unprecedented times as the world responds to the coronavirus pandemic, we urge our members to stay connected with one another. Please continue to use all forms of communication and outreach including our many social media platforms to keep each other informed about members' needs, health, and other concerns for prayer and pastoral care.

One way to stay connected with your National City family is to join our Saturday morning prayer call at 8 a.m. (712-775-7031; code 371015).

And now is the time to remember the vital ministries of our church by giving of our tithes and offerings on tithe.ly. Checks are being received in the mail and deposited weekly: National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Stay healthy, pray without ceasing, and remember, God is faithful.

Rev. Steven Baines, Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines

Stay Informed: We encourage everyone to monitor their local and state governments for the latest news and coronavirus updates.

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

<https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/>

Prayers for Our Church Family

Douglas and Chieko Cook; Dororthy 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; and all medical personnel around the world.

Capital Area Prayer Calendar

Fairfax Christian Church in Fairfax, Virginia

Global Ministries Prayer Calendar

Fritz Gerald Joseph in Morocco