

**National City Christian Church**  
**3rd Sunday after Pentecost      June 21, 2020**

Prelude

*Intrada*  
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

Grayston Ives

Call to Worship

Amy Butler

“There are so many ways to be brave in this world. Sometimes bravery involves laying down your life for something bigger than yourself, or for someone else. Sometimes it involves giving up everything you have ever known, or everyone you have ever loved, for the sake of something greater.

But sometimes it doesn't.

Sometimes it is nothing more than gritting your teeth through pain, and the work of every day, the slow walk toward a better life.”

— Veronica Roth, *Allegiant*

Opening Hymn

*Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*  
Valeria Foster, soloist

LAUDA ANIMA

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven, glad of heart your carols raise;  
Ransomed, hailed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all our days.

Praise to God for grace and favor shown to all who are oppressed.  
God shows steadfast love forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

Mother-like, God tends and spares us, knowing well our fragile frame.  
Father-like, God gently bears us, tenderhearted, slow to blame.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me praise God's name!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish: blows the wind, and it is gone.  
But, while mortals rise and perish, God's compassion still lives on.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the high eternal One!

Angels, teach us adoration you who see God face to face;  
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 10:24-39

Beverly J. Goines

‘A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

‘Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Selection

*Be Not Afraid*

Bob Dufford

Terri Malone, soloist; Valeria Foster, pianist

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain

Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.  
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.  
If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side,  
know that I am with you through it all.

*Refrain*

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.  
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me,  
blessed, blessed are you!

*Refrain*

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Sermon

*The Call to Courage*

Amy Butler

Song of Reflection

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace. (repeat)

Response

Psalm 86:1-10; 16-17

Beverly J. Goines

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.  
For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving-maid. Show me a sign of your favour, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

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

Invitation to Holy Communion and Words of Institution

Steven Baines

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.

Cultivating Generosity

Amy Butler

Hymn of Going Forth

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

ASSAM

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus—no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me—no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow, though none go with me, I still will follow,  
though none go with me, I still will follow—no turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back.

Benediction

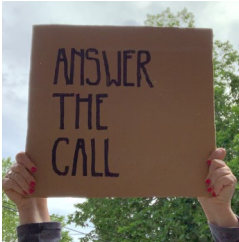
Amy Butler

Postlude

*Trompette Jubilante*  
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

Craig A. Penfield

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



For the next two weeks we will continue the series on the assigned gospel readings from Matthew titled Answer the Call. In this moment when we are being asked to live out our faith, often in unpopular or even dangerous ways, we would do well to look carefully at Jesus' teachings to his disciples, as his direction to them became increasingly urgent as they faced the daunting task ahead of them. It's doubtful they really even had a clue what they were facing, but Jesus spoke plainly and didn't pull any punches. We may have a better idea of what Christian faith demands of us than they did, but we still have to make a decision about whether or not we will Answer the Call to discipleship.

### **June 28: The Call to Welcome, Matthew 10:40-42**

Here Jesus seems to be throwing traditional qualifications out the window and reminding us that answering God's call means finding God at work in the most unusual places. For us that can mean welcoming different people, but it also can mean opening our hearts to the possibility that God works in ways we don't find familiar. This can be hard for those of us who find comfort in tradition and institution, but don't forget the Day of Pentecost—answering the call to follow Jesus means we welcome evidence of God at work even when we don't expect it.

### **July 5: The Call to Rest, Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30**

The work of discipleship is taxing, and Jesus reminds us here to pace ourselves. As they say, it's a marathon, not a sprint; we can surely feel that now as we share in the work of major reform our country has needed for decades. As our call is an entire lifetime of living on the margins, embracing a hard and transforming message, we are also called to rest and to make room for each other to rest. This week we hear some of the most comforting words Jesus ever said: "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

During these unprecedented times, we urge our members to stay connected with one another.

Please join our **Saturday morning prayer call** at 8 a.m. (712-775-7031; code 371015).

Gather with us **every Friday night in June at 5 p.m.** on the Steps of National City to offer prayers and protest. At 5:45 p.m. we will kneel (as you are able), pray silently, and ring hand bells for 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

**Virtual Fellowship Hour - Next Sunday, June 28, at 11 a.m..** Bring your coffee and enjoy virtual conversation with your National City family! We will send out a link on Thursday. Subscribe to our email list, if you haven't already, to receive the link.

Please 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. Stay healthy, pray without ceasing, and remember, God is faithful.

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

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

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

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### **Prayers for Our 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; Kathleen Swihart; Esther Tyson; Peggy Washington; John Foster Woods; and all medical personnel around the world.

### **Capital Area Prayer Calendar**

The Commission For Camp & Conference and all the campers, directors, counselors, and staff at both Camp Mary Mac and the Christian Church Conference Center at Bethany Beach

### **Global Ministries Prayer Calendar**

Jeff Wright in Israel and Palestine