National City Christian Church
7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2020

Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, Interim Senior Minister; Rev. Dr. Beverly J. Goines, Assistant Minister
Rev. Steven Baines, Interim Executive Minister
Valeria Foster, Interim Music Minister; Kevin Biggins, Jr., Interim Organist
www.nationalcitycc.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE
Meditation
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist
By Caleb Simper
Arr. Michael Ryan

WELCOME
Amy Butler

CALL TO WORSHIP
Amy Butler
Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the
good seed can grow. You have to trust God. Pope Francis

INVOCATION
Steven Baines

PASSING OF THE PEACE
Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Steven Baines

OPENING HYMN
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Led by Terri Malone
ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
   All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
   God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.
   All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield,
   Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrows grown.
   First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear,
   Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home;
   From the field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
   Give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
   But the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

   Even so, Lord, quickly come, to your final harvest home.
   Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
   There forever purified, in your presence to abide.
Come, with all your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!
PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL LESSON  Matthew 13:24-30  Beverly J. Goines
He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the household came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers. Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

SELECTION  Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing  FESTAL SONG
Terri Malone, soloist; Valeria Foster, pianist

Faith and truth and life bestowing, open now the scriptures, Lord,
seed to life eternal sowing scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, your word receiving, like a barren field be found,
choked with thorns and unbelieving, shallow earth or stony ground.

May the Spirit's power unceasing bring to life the hidden grain,
daily in our hearts increasing, bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in scripture, song and story, Savior, may your voice be heard.
till our eyes behold your glory, give us ears to hear your word.

GOSPEL LESSON  Matthew 13:36-43  Amy Butler
Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

SERMON  Growing in the Wild  Amy Butler

SONG OF REFLECTION  Creation Waits  Lavon Bayler
May we be children of your realm, strong plants from fertile seed.
Keep us away from choking weeds of fear, decay, and greed.
May we be gathered by your grace, to yield abundantly
at harvest time when Christ returns in glorious sovereignty.

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RESPONSE

HEBREW LESSON

Isaiah 44:6-8

Steven Baines

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER

Steven Baines

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

Amy Butler

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

Beverly J. Goines

HYMN OF GOING FORTH

God Be With You

Thomas A. Dorsey

God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again.
(repeat)

BENEDICTION

Amy Butler

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Amazing Grace

Arr. Christopher Pardini
Next week you can feel Jesus really revving up, on a roll with his message about the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven as he sometimes called it. One right after another, he gives us examples of what he means...and what he hopes for us. Will we get it?

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

**Virtual Fellowship Hour - Sunday at 11 a.m.** Bring your coffee and enjoy virtual conversation with your National City family! We will send out a link on Friday. Subscribe to our email list via our website www.nationalcitycc.org, or email Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org, 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; Dororthy Davis; Ja Dill; 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**
“2020 Experience – It’s Real,”
the joint event of the National Convocation, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples and Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries

**Global Ministries Prayer Calendar**
Cindy Moraga-Selva in Mexico