National City Christian Church
8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2020
www.nationalcitycc.org

GATHERING

Prelude
Grave from Concerto I, BWV 592
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

Welcome
Amy Butler

Call to Worship
Amy Butler
“The kingdom is like a tiny mustard seed, he said, that grows into an enormous tree with branches wide and strong enough to make a home for all the birds. It is like a buried treasure, a delicious feast, or a net that catches an abundance of fish. The kingdom is right here, Jesus said. It is present and yet hidden, immanent yet transcendent. The kingdom isn't some far-off place you go when you die; the kingdom is at hand among us and beyond us, now and not-yet. It is the wheat growing in the midst of weeds, the yeast working its magic in the dough, the pearl germinating in a sepulchral shell. It can come and go in the twinkling of an eye, Jesus said. So pay attention; don't miss it.” - Rachel Held Evans

Invocation
Amy Butler

Passing of the Peace
Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Opening Hymn
How Great Thou Art
Led by Terri Malone

O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain
And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.

Refrain
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Refrain

PROCLAMATION

Gospel Lesson
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-47
Steven Baines

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind."

Selection
Pie Jesu from Requiem
Terri Malone, soloist

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem sempiternam.
Faithful Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest.

Sermon

INCYMI
Amy Butler

Song of Reflection
The Reign of God
McKee

The reign of God, like farmer's field, bears weeds along with wheat;
the good and bad are intertwined till harvest is complete.

Like mustard tree, the reign of God from tiny seed will spread,
till birds of every feather come to nest, and there be fed.

Though hidden now, the reign of God may yet unnoticed, grow;
from deep within it rises up, like yeast in swelling dough.

The reign of God is come in Christ; the reign of God is near.
Ablaze among us, kindling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Response

Psalter
Psalm 119:129-136
Amy Butler

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.
The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.
With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.
Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.
Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.
Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.
PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

HYMN OF GOING FORTH

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Benediction

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

National City Ministerial Staff:
Rev. Steven Baines, Interim Executive Minister; Kevin Biggins, Jr., Interim Organist
Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, Interim Senior Minister; Valeria Foster, Interim Music Minister;
Rev. Dr. Beverly J. Goines, Assistant Minister
On Sunday, August 2, we start a new worship series. Scripture is full of stories about ordinary people who saw something they knew was wrong and bravely acted in resistance to structural evil, often risking their lives. Over the next few weeks we’ll meet brave midwives and a young, courageous queen; three young men who risked their lives to stand up to an emperor, and more! There’s nothing quite like a great story, and these ancient stories will inspire us to resist what’s wrong and stand up for what’s right.

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.

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; Jan 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
Lansdowne Christian Church
Baltimore, Maryland

Global Ministries Prayer Calendar
Thomas Smith in Korea