



National City Christian Church

5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 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

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth of July. In gratitude for our country and in recognition of the current moment in which we must challenge systems that oppress our neighbors, all the music today was written by Black composers.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Give Me Jesus

arr. Marques L.A. Garrett

Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

Marques L.A. Garrett, born 1984, in Hampton, VA. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Hampton University, where he conducted various ensembles including the HU Concert Choir and Crusaders Male Chorus. His works have been premiered by the Hampton University Symphonic Chorus, commissioned by the I. Sherman Greene Chorale, and performed by the Brigham Young University Men's Chorus. He holds membership in the American Choral Directors Association and Golden Key International Honour Society.

WELCOME

Amy Butler

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Peace of Wild Things

Amy Butler

By Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

INVOCATION

Steven Baines

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Amy Butler

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Lift Every Voice and Sing, a song of thanksgiving for faithfulness and freedom, was written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson. His musician brother J. (John) Rosamond Johnson then composed the music for it in 1899. In 1919, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) gave *Lift Every Voice and Sing* the unofficial name "The Negro National Anthem" because of its power in expressing "a cry for liberation and affirmation for African-American people." The song was published in 1921 by Joseph W. Stern & Co., Manhattan, New York (later Edward B. Marks Music Company).

PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sterling Washington

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SELECTION *His Yoke is Easy* Glenn Burleigh
Lolita Neal, Kathy Mosley, Valeria Foster, Dominicus So

His yoke is easy, and his burden is light. His yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

Come to me all ye that labor and I will give you rest.
Come to me all ye that labor and I will give you rest.

Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus just now.
Come to me all ye that labor and I will give you rest.

SERMON *The Call to Rest* Amy Butler

SONG OF REFLECTION *Come unto Jesus* Raymond Wise
Sterling Washington, soloist; Valeria Foster, piano

Come unto Jesus, all ye that labor.
Come unto Jesus and he will give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you and learn of him.
Come unto Jesus and he will give you rest.

RESPONSE

PSALTER *Song of Solomon 2: 8-13* Steven Baines
The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

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 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.

CULTIVATING GENEROSITY Steven Baines

HYMN OF GOING FORTH

Till We Gather Again

Stephen F. Key

Till we gather again, God be with you. Till we gather again, God be with you.

May he give you his love, give you his kindness, keep you in perfect peace.

God be with you till we meet again.

BENEDICTION

Amy Butler

POSTLUDE

Joshua Fit De Battle Ob Jericho

arr. Fela Sowande

Fela Sowande (1905-1987), born in Nigeria; studied and lived in London, and eventually settled in the United States. He became a US citizen in 1977. He was granted many honorifics in his lifetime, including Member of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Member of the British Empire. Although his compositions owe much to a strong Nigerian influence, he also incorporated Western techniques; in this way, he emphasized his belief that nationalism should not go unchecked, but always be a part of the greater global community.



The gospel lessons assigned for the next few weeks are all about seeds...agriculture...growing things. We modern, urban folks generally don't have an extensive understanding of agriculture, but we have a lot to learn from Jesus about what he envisions for our human community. For the next three weeks, July 12, 19, and 26) we'll be looking at three instances in which Jesus tells stories about seeds to teach us about creating the Kingdom of God right here on earth.

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/>

The Region Needs You to Sing for the Regional Assembly! As long as you are part of every Sunday's congregational singing before the shutdown - whether as a worshiper or as a choir/praise team member - you are who we need! We are launching a virtual Regional Congregational Choir Project to be released on October 2nd - October 3rd this year at Regional Assembly. For questions you may reach Sharon How at: email: sharon_star92@hotmail.com or phone: (301) 454 9455

For everyone of you who participates, \$3 will be donated to Week of Compassion - a joint effort by Rev. Allen Harris, Rev. Nathan Hill, and Sharon How. As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world. You may check out their ministry at www.weekofcompassion.org.

Please find more information here: <https://mailchi.mp/41b0bc7f87e7/regional-congregational-choir-project>

You can RSVP here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewChU9nNTxLhtd9I3soM8Qj2sJP2F6daBsV4rkyhyFjRvqfQ/viewform>

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; Kathleen Swihart; Esther Tyson; Peggy Washington; John Foster Woods; and all medical personnel around the world.

Capital Area Prayer Calendar

Heritage Christian Church
Silver Spring, Maryland

Global Ministries Prayer Calendar

Marilyn Cooper
in Ecuador