GATHERING

PRELUDE  
_Fidelis_ (Always Faithful)  
Percy Whitlock  
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

WELCOME  
Beverly J. Goines

CALL TO WORSHIP  
Beverly J. Goines

_God who moved over the deep in a holy breath,  
_Come to us this day._  
_Arrive in the fire all around us._

_God who spoke in a bush that was burned but not consumed,  
_Come to us this day._  
_Arrive in a holy flame._

_God who is present each time we gather at the table,  
_Come to us this day._  
_Arrive in bread and wine, forgiveness and connection._

_Pour out your Holy Spirit._  
_Set us aflame, but do not consume us._  
_Fill us with holy nourishment._

_We have arrived this day, and we come to worship You._  
~ adapted from a prayer by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

INVOCATION  
Beverly J. Goines

PASSING OF THE PEACE  
Amy Butler

_Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with you._

_People: And also with you._

OPENING HYMN  
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
Nettleton  
Led by Valeria Foster

_Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise._

_Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above._

_Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love._

_Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home._

_Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood._

_O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee._

_Prone to wander, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above._

PROCLAMATION

A TIME FOR CHILDREN  
The Story of Daniel in the Lion's Den  
Steven Baines
He Never Failed Me Yet
Lolita Neal, soloist; Kathy Mosley; Valeria Foster; Dominicus So

I will sing of God’s mercy; every day, every hour, he gives me power.
I will sing and give thanks to thee for all the dangers, toils and snares that he has brought me out.

He is my God and I’ll serve him, no matter what the test.
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

I know God is able to deliver in time of storm.
I know that he’ll keep you safe from all earthly harm.
One day when my weary soul is at rest, I’m going home to be forever blessed.
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

Didn’t my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh?
And didn’t he cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
When I think of what my God can do; he delivered David; I know he’ll deliver you.
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

I will sing of God’s mercy; every day, every hour, he gives me power.
I will sing and give thanks to thee for all the dangers, toils and snares that he has brought me out.

He is my God and I’ll serve him, no matter what the test.
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

EPISODE LESSON
Romans 12:9-21
Beverly J. Goines
Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

SERMON
Facing Fire
Amy Butler

SONG OF REFLECTION
May the Mind of Christ, My Savior
ST. LEONARDS
May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling all I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph only through his power.

May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.

May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel, seeing only him.


RESPONSE
Daniel 2:20-22
Steven Baines
‘Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his.
He changes times and seasons, deposes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.
He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness,
and light dwells with him.
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

STEVEN BAINES

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.

AMY BUTLER

CULTIVATING GENEROSITY

AMY BUTLER

HYMN OF GOING FORTH

The Servant Song

The Servant Song

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow ’til we’ve seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.

THE SERVANT SONG

BENEDICTION

Rev. Butler: We have learned so much these weeks about how our faith calls us to resist injustice. The work before us is hard, but God is with us, so receive this blessing now: May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

Rev. Baines: May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

Rev. Goines: May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

Rev. Butler: May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God’s grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

All: Go in peace, amen.

POSTLUDE

Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel?

Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

Mark Hayes

arr. Marvin Gasphard

REV. STEVEN BAINES, INTERIM EXECUTIVE MINISTER (SBAINES@NATIONALCITYCC.ORG)

KEVIN BIGGINS, JR., INTERIM ORGANIST (KBIGGINS@NATIONALCITYCC.ORG)

REV. DR. AMY BUTLER, INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER (ABUTLER@NATIONALCITYCC.ORG)

VALERIA FOSTER, INTERIM MUSIC MINISTER (VFOSTER@NATIONALCITYCC.ORG)

REV. DR. BEVERLY J. GOINES, ASSISTANT MINISTER (BGOINES@NATIONALCITYCC.ORG)
Throughout this series we have highlighted documentaries to learn from, to strengthen and to inspire us to resist injustice wherever we may find it. This week we call your attention to The Hand That Feeds (www.thehandthatfeedsfilm.com)

At a popular bakery café, residents of New York's Upper East Side get bagels and coffee served with a smile 24 hours a day. But behind the scenes, undocumented immigrant workers face sublegal wages, dangerous machinery, and abusive managers who will fire them for calling in sick. Mild-mannered sandwich maker Mahoma López has never been interested in politics, but in January 2012, he convinces a small group of his co-workers to fight back.

Risking deportation and the loss of their livelihood, the workers team up with a diverse crew of innovative young organizers and take the unusual step of forming their own independent union, launching themselves on a journey that will test the limits of their resolve. In one roller-coaster year, they must overcome a shocking betrayal and a two-month lockout. Lawyers will battle in back rooms, Occupy Wall Street protesters will take over the restaurant, and a picket line will divide the neighborhood. If they can win a contract, it will set a historic precedent for low-wage workers across the country. But whatever happens, Mahoma and his coworkers will never be exploited again.

**Hollertown Bluegrass concert on the Steps - September 26 at 5 p.m.** COVID has asked a lot of us, and our following safety protocols is still very important. But we've also missed being together, enjoying live music, and remembering how the church calls us into community. Mark your calendars now to join us! If you'd like to volunteer that evening (handing out masks, water, marking social distance listening spots, etc.) please contact Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org.

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.

**Prayers for Our Church Family**
Phyllis Alexander; Douglas and Chieko Cook; Dorothy Davis; Jan Dill; Eddie Franklin; Helen Gray; Constance Jennings; Jim King; Frederickia Lloyd; Tawanna Lloyd; Lucas Lund; 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**
Bethany House Apartments and Rockville Nursing Home
Rockville, Maryland

**Global Ministries Prayer Calendar**
Judy Chan in Hong Kong