GATHERING

Prelude
  *Balm in Gilead*
  Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist
  Arr. Joe Utterback

Welcome
  Amy Butler

Call to Worship
  O God who is greater than the most powerful forces in this world,
  enable us to be still and know that You are God.

  O Lord who answers out of the whirlwind of everyday life,
  breathe in us Your Holy Spirit to strengthen, comfort,
  and guide us in the midst of the storm.

  O still, small voice, speak to us this hour
  that we might become makers of Your peace
  in our homes, in our communities, in our world.
  We pray all this in the name of the One who calmed the raging sea.
  *Amen.*

  - posted on My Redeemer Lives

Invocation
  Amy Butler

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

Opening Hymn
  *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*
  Led by Sterling Washington
  MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory.

Our God is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory.

Then all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud your praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearyed raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:
to God all praise and glory.

Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;
let all who own God's power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
to God all praise and glory.
PROCLAMATION

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

SELECTION

My Hope Is Built

Sterling Washington, soloist

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!

Refrain

HEBREW LESSON

Exodus 1:8-21

Beverly J. Goines

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, ‘Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.’ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live? The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.
**Sermon**

**Taking Direction**

**Amy Butler**

**Song of Reflection**

*If You Will Trust in God to Guide You*

If you will trust in God to guide you, and hope in God through all your ways, God will give strength, whate’er betide you, and bear you through the evil days. Who trusts in God’s unchanging love builds on the rock that will not move.

Sing, pray, and keep God’s ways unswerving; so do your own part faithfully, and trust God’s word; though undeserving, you’ll find God’s promise true to be. God never will forsake in need the soul that trusts in God indeed.

**Response**

**Reading**

We come seeking God in mighty earthquakes.
We come listening for God in resounding thunder.
We come expecting God in sweeping victories.
Yet God is found in a baby’s touch.
Yet God speaks in silence.
Yet God is found in the least of these.
Save us, O God, from our aimless wandering.
Save us, O God, from our idols.
Save us, O God, from our self-induced chaos.
God, in your mercy, 
Hear our prayer...

**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**

**Amy Butler**

**Hymn of Going Forth**

*Go in Peace*

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.
Repeat

**Benediction**

**Amy Butler**

**Postlude**

*If thou but suffer God to guide thee, BWV 642*

Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

J.S. Bach

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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)
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Rev. Dr. Beverly J. Goines, Assistant Minister (bgoines@nationalcitycc.org)
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. **This week we hear the story of Shiphrah and Puah** who used their wits to resist an unlawful king. **Pray the Devil Back to Hell** is a documentary that chronicles the remarkable story of the Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country.

Thousands of women - ordinary mothers, grandmothers, aunts and daughters, both Christian and Muslim - came together to pray for peace and then staged a silent protest outside of the Presidential Palace. Armed only with white T-shirts and the courage of their convictions, they demanded a resolution to the country's civil war. Their actions were a critical element in bringing about an agreement during the stalled peace talks.

Follow this link to watch the movie: https://www.forkfilms.com/pray-the-devil-back-to-hell/#_watch

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**We are looking for your favorite hymns** for a hymn sing and to play during the interludes in our worship services. Please send them to Valeria Foster at vfoster@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 your 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/

**Prayers for Our Church Family**

Douglas and Chieko Cook; Dororthy Davis; Jan Dill; Eddie Franklin; Helen Gray; Moe Jackson; 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**
Mount Olivet Christian Church
Baltimore, Maryland

**Global Ministries Prayer Calendar**
Monica Liddle in East Timor