GATHERING

Prelude

*Voluntary in D from Ten Voluntaries for Organ*  
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist  
William Boyce

Welcome  
Steven Baines

Call to Worship  
Beverly J. Goines and Steven Baines

Leader: We have been in the wilderness  
All: **Discerning and working, seeking and dreaming**
Leader: We have been in the wilderness  
All: **Grieving and wondering, praying and hoping**
Leader: We have been in the wilderness  
All: **Longing and running, creating and waiting.**
Leader: We have been in the wilderness  
All: **fearing the loneliness and emptiness and harshness**
Leader: We have been in the wilderness  
All: **but we forget the angels whom we cannot see in our blindness but who come when God decides that we need their help.**
Leader: We have been in the wilderness  
All: **But we have not been alone, for God walks with us, every step of the way. So let us worship the God of our darkest nights and our brightest days.**
Leader: Let us worship Holy God.

Invocation  
Steven Baines

Passing of the Peace  
Beverly J. Goines

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

Opening Hymn  
*Morning Has Broken*  
Led by Paul Heffron  
BUNESSAN

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
 sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!
PROCLAMATION

HEBREW LESSON

Exodus 16:2-15
Beverly J. Goines

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

SELECTION

Hear Our Complaints

Paul Heffron, soloist

Hear our complaints, O God Most High. Hear all your people as they cry,
longing for bread and water pure, seeking survival, to endure.

You heard your children long ago, facing oppression, harm, and woe.
You led them through the wilderness, granting relief from their distress.

You promised them both bread and meat, giving them just enough to eat.
We give you thanks in word and deed, seeking your strength for all we need.

Based on Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6
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SERMON

Suggestion Box
Amy Butler

SONG OF REFLECTION

Bread for the Journey
Bret Hesla

Paul Heffron, soloist & guitarist

Chorus
When our legs are getting heavy and we're hanging down our heads,
Give us bread for the journey. Give us bread.

With so many roads before us, where to go is hard to say. Guide our way as we travel. Guide our way.

Chorus
Make us one with each other. Make us one. Make us one with each other. Make us one.
All the walls we've built around us may we learn to tear them down.
Make us one with each other. Make us one.
Lead us home to the garden. Lead us home. Lead us home. Lead us home. Where we'll live with all creation, find our place and never roam. Lead us home to the garden. Lead us home.

Chorus


RESPONSE

Psalter
Psalm 105:1-6
O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

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.

Prayer of Blessing
Kathryn Farley

Cultivating Generosity
Beverly J. Goines

Hymn of Going Forth
Let the Church Say “Amen”
Let the church say, “Amen.” Let the church say, “Amen.”
God has spoken. Let the church say, “Amen.”
repeat

Benediction
Beverly J. Goines

Postlude
Voluntary in G from Ten Voluntaries for Organ
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

William Boyce

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Rev. Steven Baines, Interim Executive Minister (sbaines@nationalcitycc.org)
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Rev. Dr. Beverly J. Goines, Assistant Minister (bgoines@nationalcitycc.org)
This September we are all about EXODUS, this week we wander the desert with the Israelites hungry and in despair until God provides direction and nourishment.

Next week learn what the Lord commands.

Please be sure to tune in, post links to the services on your social media accounts, and invite friends to join us virtually for worship!

**Hollertown Bluegrass concert on the Steps - This SATURDAY, 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. You can RSVP via our website www.nationalcitycc.org. 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.

**Saturday, October 3** we will be blessing all the pets that have been our companions over the years. Please bring your loved one to National City's steps at 11 a.m.

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; 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**
Rockville Christian Church
Rockville, Maryland

**Global Ministries Prayer Calendar**
Elena Huegel in Mexico