



# National City Christian Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2017, at 8:30 a.m.

5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005

202-232-0323

www.nationalcitycc.org

Welcome to National City Christian Church, national church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a house of prayer that is open to and affirming of all people. Thank you for joining us in worship. Please fill out the Connect with Us card, and place it in the offering tray.

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Worship Leaders: Valeria Foster, Beverly Goines, and Noemi Mena

Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stephen Gentle

GATHERING MUSIC

Tim Hughes

*Here I Am to Worship*

Refrain

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that you're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.

*(repeat)*

And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon the cross.

*(repeat)*

*(Refrain)*

*Let It Rise*

Holland Davis

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us,  
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us.  
Let the praises of the King rise among us, let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us,  
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us.  
Let the joy of the King rise among us, let it rise.  
Oh, let it rise. Oh, let it rise.

*repeat*

✠ OPENING HYMN

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

No. 709

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;  
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayest smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace, which like our God, the Giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
For a glory and a covering, showing forth that God is near!  
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

✘ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Beverly Goines

Leader: We gather here to worship God;

**People: Guide our minds to focus on you, O God.**

Leader: We gather here to follow Jesus;

**People: Guide our actions, that they might fulfill your commandments, O God.**

Leader: We gather here to serve the Lord;

**Unison: Open our hearts, that we might be filled with your love and compassion, O God, as we worship you on this Lord's Day.**

✘ SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Yes, Lord, Yes*

I'll say yes, Lord, yes to your will and to your way.

I'll say yes, Lord, yes; I will trust you and obey.

When your Spirit speaks to me, with my whole heart I'll agree,

And my answer will be yes, Lord, yes.

*(repeat)*

✘ MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP, WELCOME OF VISITORS

Stephen Gentle

✘ CALL TO PRAYER

*Give Thanks*

No. 528

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

Give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

*(repeat)*

And now let the weak say, "I am strong";

Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."

*(repeat)*

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Beverly Goines

LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL PRAISE

*Use Me, Lord*

Byron J. Smith

Kathy Mosley, soloist

## THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Beverly Goines

*Matthew 20:1-16*

[Jesus said to his disciples,] "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them,

'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

No. 714

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;  
for good gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;  
for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;  
in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;  
for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

SERMON

*Live So God Can Use Me*

Stephen Gentle

Those desiring to become members of the community of National City Christian Church, either by transfer of membership, profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or as an associate member, are invited to come forward during the hymn.

✘ INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

No. 614 (1-3)

I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.  
I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

I'm gonna work so God can use me anytime and anywhere.  
I'm gonna work so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anytime and anywhere.  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S GRACE**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING

Noemi Mena

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

Natalie Carson  
Steve Cook

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Noemi Mena

**SHARING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS**

The Lord's Supper is for all believers in Christ Jesus. Please come forward down the center aisle as directed by the Deacons. Baskets are available at the front for your offering and "Connect With Us" cards. When receiving communion, take a piece of bread or wafer, dip it into the cup, and partake. After you have received the Lord's Supper, please return to your seat by the side aisle.

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*  
Let us talents and tongues employ.  
Reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one.  
At the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express.  
refrain

Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
refrain

## THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

✠ CLOSING HYMN

*Till We Gather Again*  
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.

Stephen Key

Following the worship service, pastors and elders are at the back and side doors of the Sanctuary to greet you. All are invited to the Atrium for coffee fellowship immediately following the service.