



National City Christian Church

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Variations on *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*
Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist

By Natalie Sleeth
arr. Lawrence P. Schreiber

Based on the text: In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

WELCOME

Amy Butler

CALL TO WORSHIP

Amy Butler

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

This prayer was first presented by Cardinal Dearden in 1979 and quoted by Pope Francis in 2015. It's commonly known as The Prayer of Oscar Romero.

INVOCATION

Amy Butler

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Beverly J. Goines

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN

The Crowds Gathered

Lavon Bayler

Led by Terri Malone

AURELIA

The crowds 'round Jesus gathered to listen as he taught
of seeds a sower scattered and yields beyond their thought.

For God will bring the harvest of fruits a hundredfold
despite resistant hardness and all that we withhold.

God's word is for our hearing, as seeds are for the soil,
but much is interfering, God's harvest to despoil.

Like thorns, the world's distractions choke out the truth we seek,
for wealth has its attractions and cares can leave us weak.

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PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Steven Baines

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 13:2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

SELECTION

Sois la Semilla

Cesareo Gabarain

Terri Malone, soloist; Valeria Foster, pianist

Sois la semilla que ha de crecer, sois estrella que ha de brillar.

Sois levadura, sois grano de sal, antorcha que debe alumbrar.

Sois la mañana que vuelve a nacer, sois espiga que empieza a granar.

Sois aguijón y caricia a la vez, testigos que voy a enviar.

Estríbillo:

Id, amigos, por el mundo, anunciando el amor,

mensajeros de la vida, de la paz y el perdón.

Sed, amigos, mis testigos de mi resurrección.

Id llevando mi presencia; con vosotros estoy.

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night;

you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark.

You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;

you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch, my witnesses where'er you go.

Refrain:

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.

Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;

"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

Sois fuego y sabia que vine a traer, sois la ola que agita la mar.
La levadura pequeña de ayer fermenta la masa del pan.
Una ciudad no se puede esconder, ni los montes se han de ocultar,
en vuestras obras que buscan el bien el mundo al Padre verá.

Estribillo

You are the life that will nurture the plant; you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide, nor a mountain can cover its might;
may your good deeds show a world in despair a path that will lead all to God.

Refrain

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:18-23

Amy Butler

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

SERMON

What's the Point?

Amy Butler

SONG OF REFLECTION

The Crowds Gathered

Lavon Bayler
LANCASHIRE

O God, grant understanding and willingness to learn,
so soil where seeds are landing may yield a high return.
May depth and strong endurance accompany our joy,
and Love give reassurance no evil can destroy.

RESPONSE

HEBREW LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13

Beverly J. Goines

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

Beverly J. Goines

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

Steven Baines

*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

Jesus Is the Answer for the World Today
Jesus is the answer for the world today.
Above him there's no other. Jesus is the way.
Jesus is the answer for the world today.
Above him there's no other. Jesus is the way!
(repeat)

Andraé Crouch

BENEDICTION

Amy Butler

POSTLUDE

Festival Trumpet Tune in D

Mark Thewes



Since the very beginning of time, humans have been asking this fundamental question of human living: why do the wicked prosper? Jesus has some thoughts about that: not easy answers, but prompts for reflection as we work to live differently.

Our prayers and sympathy go out the family and friends of Bob and Frances Beck who have passed away. Frances passed on April 24 and Bob on June 25. Frances was the cook and manager of the Bethany Beach Conference Center.

Please join our **Saturday morning prayer call** at 8 a.m. (712-775-7031; code 371015).

Prayers for Our Church Family

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.

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.

Please remember the vital ministries of our church by giving of our tithes and offerings on [tithely](http://tithely.com). Checks are being received in the mail and deposited weekly. Stay healthy, pray without ceasing, and remember, God is faithful.

Capital Area Prayer Calendar

Hyattstown Christian Church
Hyattstown, Maryland

Global Ministries Prayer Calendar

Brigitte Eale
in Kenya

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>
<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>
<https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/>
