From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. In the midst of narratives, policies, and rhetoric designed to divide us, what does it look like to practice belonging to one another? The work of God is always unfolding— in and through us. This Advent season, how will we carry it forth?

Third Sunday of Advent
Welcome

National City Christian Church, the national church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), has been serving downtown Washington, D.C. and the world since 1930. At National City, we seek to help everyone journey toward a fuller commitment to Christ by being an inclusive church family that fully embraces in its life and ministries people of every race, gender, age, culture, economic circumstance, sexual/gender orientation, family configuration, physical or mental condition, and all other distinctions that are the rich tapestry of God’s creation. You are welcome here. Please visit nationalcitycc.org to find more information about our community, submit prayer requests, and let us know you’ve been with us in worship today.

References to God

References to God in traditional prayers and hymns may sometimes be gender-specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God. You are also invited to sing hymns and speak parts of the services, such as the Lord’s Prayer, in your native tongue.

Invitations to Online Participation

If you are worshipping with us virtually today, we invite you to gather the following items:

- A candle and means by which to light it.
- Elements for communion such as bread, crackers, juice and/or wine.
- Your preferred Bible or Bible app.

Silence

One of the practices utilized in worship is silence. Silence is not the total absence of noise, but instead another invitation to pay attention and to hear God’s voice in worship.

Worship

National City Christian Church is an architectural icon in the heart of Thomas Circle. But a closer look reveals incredible historical details—each with its own purpose and story, and one of the most notable organ instruments in the metropolitan D.C. area. Artistry is part of the spirit at National City—choral music, instrumental music, creative art—are all an important part of our mission. For more information about our Worship, Music & Arts ministry, please contact Gerald Lee Ricks, Director of Worship, Music & Arts, at gricks@nationalcitycc.org or 202-232-0323 ext 103.
HYMNALS

CH — Chalice Hymnal (Denomination Hymnal) located in the pew pockets.
AAHH — African American Heritage Hymnal (Supplemental Hymnal) located at each entrance of the sanctuary.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Steven Baines, Executive Minister
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Mr. Kevin J. Biggins, Jr., Associate Director of Music & Organist
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Rev. Dr. Amy Butler
Interim Senior Minister
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Mr. Morris Jackson, Building Superintendent
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Ms. Anna Meyer, Virtual Minister
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Ms. Betty Crudup, Church Concierge

Mr. Gerald Lee Ricks, Director of Worship, Music, & Arts
gricks@nationalcitycc.org

Ms. Kathleen Swihart, Associate for Membership
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Mr. Juan Daniel Fuentis Vasquez
Assistant Building Superintendent

The Courageous Choice by Rev. Lisle Gynn Garrity

When Joseph learns that his engagement has turned into a scandal, he decides to dismiss Mary quietly. While this choice may seem like a compassionate one, it's also a passive choice, one with little cost to Joseph but great consequences for Mary. As an unmarried mother, she and her child would be incredibly vulnerable, shunned by society, perhaps cut off from family support and resources. This choice means Joseph's reputation remains unharmed while pregnant Mary will live on with mounting shame and threats cast upon her.

While Joseph is thinking about all of this, perhaps deliberating about how he will delicately manage the social perceptions of this unexpected turn in his life, an angel comes to him in his dreams. What I find most interesting is that the angel doesn’t command Joseph; instead he simply says, “Don’t be afraid.” He essentially says: “Don’t be afraid of the social stigma. Don’t be afraid to become a parent through adoption. Don’t be afraid to experience a love greater than you have ever known. Don’t be afraid to make the courageous choice, the one that will not only change your life, but the lives of Mary and Jesus and so many generations who will come after you.”

In this image, I’ve captured Joseph in the liminal space where his dreams will soon shape his reality. He rests his head on a folded blanket, which represents the woven tapestry of his ancestors who also made difficult choices for good. Gold interconnecting lines, like the roots and branches of a family tree, envelop him, symbolizing the beautiful web of regeneration that will come from his courage.

As we reflect on the Christmas story through Joseph’s experience, may we, too, have the courage to choose a better way.
THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Ten o'clock Sunday, December 11, 2022

Prelude Michael Klucker, cellist
Jade Lin, pianist

Allegro appassionato
by Camille Saint-Saëns

Welcome and Announcements Amy Butler

Silence

*Congregational Hymn CH#683 O for a World

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Amy Butler

Congregational Choral Response Refrain & stanza 3

From Generation to Generation

Words: Dolly Bunn, using material from "From Generation to Generation" © A Sanctified Art/A Sanctified Art.org
Music: WZLOHE UP7Y, public domain
The Passing of Peace

Amy Butler

One: The peace of Christ be always with you!
All: And also with you

Musical Interlude

*The Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Hudson Ricks

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

One: This is the Gospel of Christ,
All: Thanks be to God.

Song of Preparation

Mary, Did You Know?
Sermon

“When Power Cedes to Love”
Amy Butler

Choral Call to Prayer

Here at Darkest Coldest Hour

Come and be among us Maker
Be with us in flesh and blood
Though in word and song you’ve told us
Now you show us God is good
Oh, what Love so freely given!
Oh, what Grace received unearned!
Though as Your children we’ve been ungrateful
See what troth the Creator returned

Pastoral Prayer

Steven Baines

Musical Reflection

For Everyone Born

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share, with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that’s fair,

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong,

For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive, in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live.
For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.

Holy Communion  
Steve Baines

The Prayer at the Table  
Sarah Hedlund

Cultivating Generosity  
Amy Butler

*Hymn of Going Forth CH#99  
Oh How I Love Jesus

*Benediction  
Amy Butler

Postlude  
Kevin Biggins Jr., organist
Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates  
Arr. Wilbur Held (1914), Based on the tune: TRURO  
from T. Williams Psalmodia Envegelica

It is our practice to be seated for the playing of the postlude.

National City Christian Church proudly acknowledges the following composers and arrangers of music used in today’s worship service:

**O for a World:** Text: Miriam Therese Winter (1987).  
Music: Carl Gotthelf Glaser (1828), Lowell Mason (1839)  
**TUNE:** AZMON

**From Generation to Generation:**  
Text: Debi Burns, using material from “From Generation to Generation,”  
Music: Polish carol  
**TUNE:** W ZLOLBIE LEZY

**Here at Coldest Darkest Hour:** Text: Timothy Patton.  
Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, (1830).  
**TUNE:** HYFRYDOL

**Mary, Did You Know:** Text: Mark Lowry.  
Music: Buddy Greene.  
Adpt. Gerald Lee Ricks

**For Everyone Born:** Text: Shirley Erena Murray  
Music: Brian Mann, administered by General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusick. Arr. Tom Trenney.

**O, How I Love Jesus:** Text: Frederick Whitfield.  
Music: Traditional American melody.  
**TUNE:** O, HOW I LOVE JESUS

Today’s singers are: The Chancel Choir.

Hymn texts are printed with permission with the licensing CCLI #2266475 and OneLicense.net A-726759. Scripture texts are taken from
the New Revised Standard Version, unless otherwise noted. The Virtual Worship minister today is Anna Meyer. Ryan Phipps designed the cover art for this series.

**This Week at National City**

- **Wednesday, December 14, 2022 @ 10 AM** | Food Pantry (Courtyard)
- **Friday, December 16, 2022 @ 12:15 PM** | Music @ Midday | Randall Sheets and Chuck Seipp, organists (Sanctuary)
- **Friday, December 16, 2022 @ 6:30 PM** | On The Move 12-Step Recovery (Community Room)
- **Saturday, December 17, 2022 @ 8 AM** | Prayer Call | Please dial 267-807-9601 (Code 371015)
- **Sunday, December 17, 2022**
  - **9 AM** | Sunday School | Children, Youth (*in-person only*) & Adult Opportunities (*in person & ZOOM*)
  - **10 AM** | Hybrid Worship Experience | (Sanctuary, Facebook & YouTube)

**ADVENT SERMON SERIES: FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION**

The root word of “generation” is “gen” meaning “origin” or “birth.” Our theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?

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Christmas Worship Opportunities

**24 DEC**
Christmas Eve Worship
Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols and communion. Musical Prelude at 6:30 PM.
LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

**25 DEC**
Christmas Sunday Worship
An intimate worship experience and communion with Pastor Amy, Alia Waheed Ky, soprano, and Kevin Biggins, Jr., organist.
ONLINE WORSHIP PREMIERE

**01 JAN**
New Year's Worship
A intimate worship celebration and communion with Rev. Baines and the Chancel Choir.
ONLINE WORSHIP PREMIERE
We’d love to connect with you, please scan the code to send our pastors an email.

**Congregational Meeting | TODAY!!!**

We will have our end-of-year Congregational Meeting Today, December 11, at 11:15 a.m. to receive and vote on the 2023 Congregation Budget and the 2023 Church Officiary.

**SAVE THE DATE | January 8, 2023**

We will celebrate the gifts, talents and ministry of our beloved Interim Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Amy Butler during worship, as she preaches her final sermon. A reception & fellowship opportunity will follow immediately in the community room. Gifts and/or cards are encouraged.