

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Leaders: Beverly Goines and Steven Moore
Preacher: Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

We prepare for worship with the gathering music. Join in the singing of the gathering music with the choir, and please turn off all cellular phones, pagers, and watch alarms.

CALL TO WORSHIP Stephen Gentle

GATHERING MUSIC
Angels, from the Realms of Glory No. 149

✠OPENING HYMN No. 148
O Come, All Ye Faithful

✠LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE Beverly Goines
Liturgist: Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath -- the candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of LOVE. In numerous ways Jesus, the Good Shepherd, demonstrated selfless and pure love. Advent is a time for acts of kindness, thinking of others before ourselves, and sharing with others. It is a time to love just as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us also be love.

People: **In the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 10: “For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. God executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving them food and clothing. Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.” And from the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

Liturgist: Let us pray: Teach us to love selflessly, O Lord, with our whole bodies and minds and without reservation. May we always remember to put you first as we follow in your footsteps, that we may know your love every moment of our lives and show it in our actions. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth, fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the love of the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. Amen.

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

A Candle Is Burning
(Sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)

A candle is burning - a flame warm and bright;
A candle of Hope in December’s dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven’s bright sky
Our hearts we prepare, for the Christ child is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
The Savior is coming to show us the way;
Christ Jesus, our Peace, humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of Joy;
A candle to welcome sweet Mary’s small boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As Joy warms our hearts just as sunshine on snow.

A candle is burning, a candle of Love;
A candle to point us to heaven above.
The holy Christ child, what a wonderful birth;
For Jesus has now brought God’s Love down to earth.

✠MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP, WELCOME OF VISITORS Stephen Gentle
Welcome to National City Christian Church. We greet you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We request that everyone - both members and visitors - sign the Connect With Us cards in your bulletin. If you are a visitor, please indicate your address and telephone number. There is space on the back of the cards for prayer concerns.

CALL TO PRAYER Claire Cloninger

While We Are Waiting, Come
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

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.

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD’S WORD

CHORAL PRAISE Glenn E. Burleigh
Well, the Savior is Born from Born to Die

The Night That Christ Was Born Kirk Franklin

SCRIPTURE READING Beverly Goines
NT p. 1
Matthew 1:18-25

HYMN OF PREPARATION No. 132 (4)
When God Is a Child
Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.
Refrain
When God is a child there’s joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

SERMON

A Merry, Little Christmas

Stephen Gentle

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD’S WORD

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 No. 144 (2-4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above while mortals sleep,
the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.

THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES GOD’S GRACE

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING Steven Moore
ELDERS’ PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP Cecil Talbott
Theresa Beaton

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS
This table is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Please come forward by the center aisle as directed by the Deacons. Baskets are available at the first pew for your offerings. When receiving communion, take a wafer from the plate and dip it in the cup. After you have received the Lord’s Supper, please return to your seats by the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMN
Medley of Carols (*instrumental*)

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠BENEDICTION
✠RESPONSE Kenneth Louis
Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord



Following the worship service, our pastors are at the doors of the sanctuary to greet you. All are invited to come down to the Atrium for a time of fellowship.

Worship and preaching resources: Chalice Worship, Colbert S. Cartwright and O.I. Cricket Harrison, ed. (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1999), Seasons of the Spirit, Craig Schaub, et. al., (British Columbia, Canada: Wood Lake Publishing, Inc., 2007), and When We Gather, James G. Kirk, (Philadelphia: The Geneva Press, 2001). The texts for the hymns sung during this morning service are reprinted with permission given under CCLI #2266475.

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

WELCOME TO NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship! Are you ready for Christmas? On this Sunday before Christmas, we celebrate God's Love Incarnate in Christ Jesus. We are so honored that you are in worship with us today. May the love of God be with the whole people of God – wherever people are gathered in worship to praise the Lord for the babe born in Bethlehem.

FOR OUR GUESTS

Connect With Us! – We are so delighted that you have chosen to worship at National City Christian Church. Please take a moment and sign the *Connect With Us* card in the bulletin. Indicate your address, telephone number, and e-mail address. There is a space on the back for prayer concerns and comments. Please place it in the offering tray.

Membership at NCCC – It would be our joy to welcome you into the membership of this congregation. You may join through transfer of membership from another congregation or through a profession of faith and baptism. Full and associate membership are available. Please feel free to talk with any minister or e-mail sgentle@nationalcitycc.org

Sanctuary Tour – Tours of our historic sanctuary are available following the 11 a.m. worship service. If you are interested, please meet at the Garfield Window in the rear of the sanctuary (pulpit side).

Coffee and Fellowship – Come to the Atrium for a warm cup of coffee and meet some of the warm people of National City. The Atrium is located on the first floor of the building through the front, right door.

Nursery – Childcare is available during the morning for children through age four. The nursery is located in Fellers Foyer. Speak with a greeter or any member for directions.

Accessibility – Elevator access to the sanctuary is available via the 14th Street courtyard entrance. If you would like to request a handicapped parking space for Sunday, please call the church office by 12 noon on Friday. In addition, the sanctuary has an assisted listening system; please request a receiver from an usher.

EN ESPAÑOL – Culto en la Capilla Phillips, Domingo 11 a.m.

Audio Recording – Tapes of the sermon from the 11 a.m. worship service are available for \$4. Tapes may be ordered by completing the form at the reception desk in the Atrium or by calling the church office. Please add \$2 per tape for mailing. Messages are also available for download at www.nationalcitycc.org

Pastoral Needs – If you would like to speak with a pastor, please feel free to meet with one of the pastors at the door after the worship service or call during business hours, 202-232-0323.

National City Online – Visit online at www.nationalcitycc.org and Facebook members are encouraged to sign up as fans of National City's Facebook page. Also members and guests are encouraged to sign up for our e-mail list at <http://www.nationalcitycc.org/register.asp>

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Sunday School – 10 a.m. for children, youth, and adults

Classes for elementary students will meet in the staff lounge on the third floor of the Beasley Building.

Classes for middle and high school students will meet in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Christian Pathways – Howland Center.

Children's Time – All elementary students are invited to participate in the children's Creative Arts program that takes place during the 11 a.m. service. Children can meet their parents in the Music Suite or in the Atrium at the end of the worship service.

Fair Trade Gifts, Crafts, and Coffee – Hilda's International Gift Shop is open today from 10 to 11 a.m. and 12 to 1 p.m. near the courtyard entrance in the Atrium.

Deacons' Meeting - After the 11 a.m. service meet Gary Lewis at the LBJ Window.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Food Pantry from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Atrium.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

7 p.m. Festive Prelude, 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Combined Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Hispanic Worship Service at 11 a.m.

No Sunday school classes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Pantry Donations – Please donate non-perishable food items for the needy in the area any Sunday this season. You may leave your gift in the marked box found in the Narthex or in the Atrium. Donations of toiletries, socks, hats, and gloves are also needed. Thank you.

Holiday Worship Schedule - Please join us for Sunday worship at 10 a.m. on December 26 and January 2. Regular worship hours of 8:30 and 11 a.m. will resume on January 9. Hispanic worship services will continue through the holidays at 11 a.m. in Phillips Chapel. Sunday school classes will not be meeting December 26 or January 2, but will resume with the regular schedule on January 9, 2011.

Yada D-Space Goes to Happy Hour - Join the Young Adults at happy hour Tuesday, December 28, and Tuesday, January 4. Locations are TBD, so sign up for the Yada Newsletter to learn more. Study will resume January 11. Contact Ann Neeriemer at aneeriemer@gmail.com if you'd like to lead a week of study in 2011.

Join YADA for the MLK Day of Service - The Young Adults are sponsoring a team for the MLK Day of Service, January 17, 2011, with GreaterDCCares. We would like to invite all church members and visitors to join the team. Sign up today.

New Church Directory - In preparation for printing a new church directory in January, there will be a copy at the Atrium desk for you to check the information for its correctness and completeness.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Jim Baines; James Green; William C. Howland, Jr.;
Enid Maitland; C. William and Claudine Nichols;
Hilda Reynolds; Martha Thompkins; Al Weaver;
and those in military service.

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Christian Family Church, Mt. Rainier, Maryland

PLEASE SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COLLEEN WALSH

AT cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org OR cajwalsh@gmail.com

We need a little Christmas



December 19, 2010

8:30 a.m.



National City Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)