

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Leaders: Beverly Goines and Noemi Mena
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 Andraé Crouch

Soon and Very Soon

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

repeat

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord Kenneth Louis



Pre - pare ye, pre - pare ye, _____ pre - pare ye the way of the Lord! _____

✠OPENING HYMN No. 148 (1, 2, 4)

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.

(✠ Please stand as you are able.)

✠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 Dennis L. Jernigan

You Are My All in All

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the Treasure that I seek, You are my All in All.

Seeking you as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool, You are my All in All!

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

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 Nyaturu Tune (Tanzania)

Singing Glory Be to Jesus

SCRIPTURE READING Beverly Goines

Luke 1:26-38

NT p. 53

HYMN OF PREPARATION No. 165 (1, 2)

Once in Royal David's City

SERMON Stephen Gentle

Tell of THE Yuletide Treasure!

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 (1, 2, 4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES GOD'S GRACE

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING Noemi Mena

ELDERS' PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP Bill Travis
Ann Neeriemer

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 Keith Laws

We Must Work

We must work while it is day,
Spreading the word of God as we go along the way.
We must be willing to do God's will,
Spreading the word of God till it reaches throughout the hills.
We must witness to everyone we meet in every song we sing.
We must tell them of the soon coming King.

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.

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.

EVERY SUNDAY

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

Classes for middle school students (Chi Rho) will meet in Scott Hall.

Classes for high school students (CYF) will meet in the 2nd Fl. Conf. Room.

Christian Pathways – Small group for adults meet in the 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.

FOR OUR GUESTS

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 memberships are available. Please feel free to talk with any minister or email 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.

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

Parking – Complimentary parking is available at the Washington Plaza Hotel parking garage. Simply ask for a voucher at the church front desk at the 14th street entrance. Street parking is available every Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the west ramp off Thomas Circle, which leads to Massachusetts Avenue.

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 202-232-0323 during business hours.

National City Online – Visit online at www.nationalcitycc.org to find a recording of Sunday's sermon. 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 email list at <http://www.nationalcitycc.org/register.asp>.

TODAY

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.

Food Pantry – Each week we help hundreds of our homeless neighbors and many families within our neighborhood through the Food Pantry. Any food item is greatly appreciated. If you would prefer, you may make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry by using one of the envelopes, please put Food Pantry on the memo line.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Magical Mystical Musical Machine – Pipe organ recital and demonstration series. 12:15 - 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Free. This week features our own Charles Miller.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 Prelude - 7:30 Candlelight Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Combined Service - 10 a.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

NCCC Buildings Closed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Years Day Combined Service – Sunday, January 1 at 10 a.m.

Nursery Open House – January 8, 10 a.m. If you have children who are infants through preschool come and meet Sana Kifafi, our nursery attendant, and other families with young children.

Ice Skating – The Chi Rho (middle school) group will be going ice skating after church at the Sculpture Garden on January 8. All are invited to join in the fun and the bumps.

Tubing – Calling all middle school students: Save the date! The Chi Rho group will be going tubing on Saturday January 21. Let Teresa Swihart know if you plan to attend this event. Adult drivers may also be needed for this one day trek to western Maryland. Please let Teresa know if you are available to help out and how many people your car can comfortably hold.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY

Russell Chapin; Dorothy Davis; Will Hill; Ann and William Howland;
Enid Maitland; C. William and Claudine Nichols;
Denise Ross; Martha Thompkins;
and those in military and civil service.

CAPITAL AREA PRAYER CALENDAR

Christian Family Church, Mt. Rainier, Maryland

**PLEASE SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COLLEEN WALSH
BY NOON ON WEDNESDAY**

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

Tell of THE Yuletide Treasure!



December 18, 2011

8:30 a.m.



**National City Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**