

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Leaders: Phillip Gentle, Beverly Goines, and Beau Underwood  
Preacher: Stephen Gentle

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

*Savior of the Nations, Come* J.S. Bach  
*Still, Still, Still* arr. Paul Manz

**MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME** Stephen Gentle  
Welcome! National City Christian Church is the national church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a house of prayer that is open and affirming of all people. We pray that today's worship will please God and edify God's people.

Please sign the Connect With Us card in the bulletin. If you are a first-time guest, please indicate your address, telephone number, and e-mail address. There is a space on the back for prayer concerns and comments. As we prepare for worship, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers, and watch alarms. The service is approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.

**INTROIT** J.S. Bach  
*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

✠**HYMN OF PRAISE** No. 138  
REJOICE, REJOICE  
*Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*

## THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE** Phillip Gentle  
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:** **“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.” Saint John says: “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: 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.

**SCRIPTURE READING** Beverly Goines  
NT p. 53

Luke 1:26-38

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Beverly Goines

**ANTHEM** Charles Villiers Stanford  
*Magnificat*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me and Holy is His name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm.  
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel.  
As he promised to our fore-fathers Abraham and his seed forever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S TIME**  
Elementary school children will be invited by the pastor to leave the Sanctuary just before the sermon to attend a creative arts program in the Music Suite. Children will be dismissed to move to the Atrium to meet their parents at the end of the worship service.

**SERMON** Stephen Gentle  
*Tell of THE Yuletide Treasure*

## THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S WORD AND CELEBRATES GOD'S GRACE

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.

✠**HYMN OF INVITATION** No. 144 (1, 2, 4)  
ST. LOUIS  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING** Beau Underwood

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** arr. Carol Preus  
*Love Came Down at Christmas*  
Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;  
love was born at Christmas. Star and angels gave the sign.  
Worship we the God-head, love incarnate, love divine;  
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?  
Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine;  
love to God and all men; love for plea and gift and sign.  
Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine.

✠**DOXOLOGY** No. 173 (3)  
DIX

*As With Gladness*  
As they offered gifts so rare at the manger, plain and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** Beau Underwood

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE** Shana Pereira  
Elder: God of love and hope, fill us with the joy and peace of believing, that we may respond by seeking to do your will.

**People:** **You bring deliverance to the needy and justice to the oppressed; use our lives as instruments of your love. You cause your Spirit to rest on the faithful, bestowing wisdom, knowledge, and might; may we use our actions to proclaim your love, so that all may come to rejoice in your new life. We pray the prayer our Lord taught his disciples to pray, saying...**  
**All:** **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.**

**PRAYER AT THE TABLE** Kent Woods

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**  
This table is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Please eat the bread as it is passed and hold the cup so that we may share it together.

**COMMUNION HYMN** CRANHAM  
*In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

What\_ can I bring Him, poor\_ as I am? If I were a shep - herd,  
I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise - man, I would do my  
part; yet what I can, I give Him: give\_\_\_\_\_ my heart.

## THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE

✠**HYMN OF GOING FORTH** No. 143  
ANTIOCH  
*Joy to the World*

✠**BENEDICTION**  
**POSTLUDE** Johann Pachelbel  
*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

*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.

### 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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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**

[ATcwalsh@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:ATcwalsh@nationalcitycc.org) OR [cajwalsh@gmail.com](mailto:cajwalsh@gmail.com)



*Tell of THE Yuletide Treasure!*

**December 18, 2011  
11 a.m.**



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