Advent Hope Peace Joy Love

The People of Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gathered for the

Worship of God

December 23, 2018 4th Sunday of Advent 10:45 a.m.

Chiming the Hour

Mr. Tom Day

Greeting

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

The Lord is with you. And with you also.

We pass the friendship register as a way of welcoming one another to this time of sacred worship.

Call to Worship

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Prelude Mr. Day

Meditation of Preparation

"But love, sooner or later, forces us out of time. It does not accept that limit. Of all that we feel and do, all the virtues and all the sins, love alone crowds us at last over the edge of the world. For love is always more than a little strange here. It is not explainable or even justifiable. It is itself the justifier. We do not make it. If it did not happen to us, we could not imagine it. It includes the world and time as a pregnant woman includes her child whose wrongs she will suffer and forgive. It is in the world but is not altogether of it. It is of eternity. It takes us there when it most holds us here."

--Wendell Berry, Jayber Crow

*Hymn of Praise 130 My Soul Gives Glory to My God MORNING SONG

*Invocation Ms. Chris Baumgartner

*Gloria Patri 155 Gloria, in excelsis Deo! GLORIA

Lighting of the Advent Candles Church Life & Growth Committee

The Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-55 Ms. Chris Baumgartner For the Word of God in its promise and covenant,

Thanks be to God.

Special Music Christmas Lullaby Ms. Liz Baumgartner

Hymn of Prayer 133 Like a Child LIKE A CHILD

Prayers of the People Rev. Russell and Congregation

God, whose arrival we await...

Grant us hope, peace, joy, and love.

The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

Congregational Response 312

Amen

AMEN

Moment for Mission

Mr. Mark Mathes

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts Ms. Chris Baumgartner Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of Washington Avenue Christian Church.

Offertory Mr. Day

*Doxology 46 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH
Children age three through fifth grade depart
for Children: Worship & Wonder following the Doxology

Anthem My Heart, Your Bethlehem Chancel Choir

The Hebrew Bible Reading Micah 5:2-5a The Rev. Russell For the Word of God in its promise and covenant, Thanks be to God.

Sermon Believe Women Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"The Magnificat is the great New Testament song of liberation—personal and social, moral and economic—a revolutionary document of intense conflict and victory. It praises God's liberating actions on behalf of [Mary], which are paradigmatic of all of God's actions on behalf of marginal and exploited people."

--Jane D. Schaberg and Sharon H. Ringe, Women's Bible Commentary: Gospel of Luke

Hymn of Communion 399 O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near

BELMONT

Invitation to Commune Rev. Russell

The Elder's Prayer Ms. Chris Baumgartner

The Words of Institution Ms. Barbara Terrell

The fish is a symbol of the fellowship of Christian believers. Partake of the bread individually, symbolic of our personal redemption by God through Christ. The cup is received in unison with the prayer that we will forgive others as we have been forgiven by God.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastoral Benediction and Charge

Rev. Russell

Rev. Russell

We thank you, God, for renewing faith, strengthening hope, granting peace, kindling joy, and reconciling love. Through the power of the living Christ who comes to us as the babe of Bethlehem, grant that we shall walk in newness of life. AMEN

*Hymn of Discipleship 142 People, Look East BESANÇON

Affirmation of Responses Rev. Russell

Postlude Mr. Day

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We Go to Love and Serve from Our Doorsteps to the Ends of the Earth

*The people may rise in body and spirit as able.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Mon., 12/24: 4:30 p.m. - Service of Carols and Celebration

7:30 p.m. - Service of Candlelight and Carols 11:30 p.m. - Service of Candlelight and Comm

11:30 p.m. - Service of Candlelight and Communion
Tue., 12/25: Merry Christmas! (The church office will be closed through January 1.

Parish Visitor Brenda Keenan will be checking the office voicemail [323-4213] in case of pastoral emergency.)