

The babe of Bethlehem is born!

# Christmas

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

## Worship of God

December 24, 2018

Christmas Eve

7:30 p.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

"Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:

'God is not dead, nor doth God sleep;

The Wrong shall fail,

The Right prevail,

With peace on earth, good-will to all.'"

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Christmas Bells*

*Hymn 148	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	ADESTE FIDELES
*Invocation		Rev. Russell
*Gloria Patri 155	<i>Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</i>	GLORIA
The Annunciation		Luke 1:26-33
The Lighting of the Christ Candle	Ms. Shirley Shubert and Ms. Lauri Warfield	
The Journey to Bethlehem		Luke 2:1-5
*Hymn 144	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ST. LOUIS
The Birth		Luke 2:6-7
Duet	<i>O Holy Night</i> Ms. Kimberly Wilhelm, soprano, and Rev. Russell, tenor Becky Thompson, piano	
The Announcement of the Birth		Luke 2:8-14
*Hymn 150	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	MENDELSSOHN
The Shepherds' Response		Luke 2:15-20
Anthem	<i>The Shepherd's Gloria</i>	Chancel Choir
Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts	Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of Washington Avenue Christian Church.	
Sermon		Rev. Russell

## Discipline of Silence

The Christmas story, more than any other in the Bible, shows us that we are going to be helped by God's powerlessness—or God's love—not by God's power. The Christmas story shows us that God had to come to earth as the child of Joseph and Mary because freedom for the beloved demands equality with the beloved.

--William Sloane Coffin, *Credo*

## The Lighting of the Candles

\*Hymn 145

*Silent Night*

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.

Pastoral Benediction and Charge

Rev. Russell

Postlude

Mr. Day

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.

May you know the spirit of Christmas, which is peace;  
the gladness of Christmas, which is hope;  
the surprise of Christmas, which is joy;  
the heart of Christmas, which is love;  
and the gift of Christmas, which is Christ.