



The People of Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
gathered for the  
**Worship of God**  
March 31, 2019 - 10:45 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Chiming the Hour

Mr. Tom Day

Greeting

Rev. Nathan 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

Rev. Russell

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

Prelude

Mr. Day

Meditation of Preparation

"There are many elder sons and elder daughters who are lost while still at home."

--Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Return of the Prodigal Son*

- |   |                                 |                  |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|
| *Hymn of Praise 69  | <i>How Like a Gentle Spirit</i> | SURSUM CORDA     |
| *Invocation   |                                 | Mr. Chris Thomas |
| *Gloria Patri 36  | <i>Glory Be to the Father</i>   | MEINEKE          |
| A Gospel Reading  | Luke 15:1-10                    | Mr. Thomas       |
| For the Word of God we encounter through the words of scripture...  |                                 |                  |
| <b>Thanks be to God.</b>  |                                 |                  |
| Hymn of Prayer 583  | <i>Lead Me, Guide Me</i>        | LEAD ME GUIDE ME |
| Prayer of Confession  | Rev. Russell and Congregation   |                  |
| <b>Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name.</b> |                                 |                  |
| Prayers of the People   | Rev. Russell                    |                  |
| God, as we walk with you along the way...   |                                 |                  |
| <b>Lead us and guide us.</b>  |                                 |                  |
| The Lord’s Prayer   |                                 |                  |
| <b>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.</b>   |                                 |                  |
| Congregational Response 312   | <i>Amen</i>                     | AMEN             |
| Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts  | Mr. Thomas                      |                  |
| Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of Washington Avenue Christian Church.   |                                 |                  |
| Offertory   | Mr. Day                         |                  |

\*Doxology 46

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

The Children's Moment

Ms. Debbie Walker

Children age three through fifth grade depart for  
Children: Worship & Wonder following the Children's Moment

Anthem

*As the Deer*

Chancel Choir

A Gospel Reading

Luke 15:11-32

Rev. Russell

For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Prodigal Dynamics

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"If we hold in abeyance, at least for the moment, the rush to read repenting and forgiving into the parable, then it does something more profound than repeat well-known messages. It provokes us with simple exhortations. Recognize that the one you have lost may be right in your own household. Do whatever it takes to find the lost and then celebrate with others, both so that you can share the joy and so that the others will help prevent the recovered from ever being lost again. Don't wait until you receive an apology; you may never get one. Don't wait until you can muster the ability to forgive; you may never find it. Don't stew in your sense of being ignored, for there is nothing that can be done to retrieve the past."

--Amy-Jill Levine, *Short Stories by Jesus*

Hymn of Communion 419

HOLY MANNA

*All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

The Elder's Prayer

Ms. Debby Willets

The Words of Institution

Mr. Mark Mathes

The fish is a symbol of the fellowship of Christian believers. Partake of the bread individually, symbolic of our 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

Rev. Russell and Congregation

**Loving God, you reconcile us to yourself and to one another in the sacrament of holy communion. We are one body in Jesus Christ. With common kinship, we sense that if one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Help us to express our oneness with the family that resides inside our doorsteps and to our larger family that extends to the ends of the earth. AMEN.**

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Russell

\*Hymn of Discipleship 685

ONE WORLD

*God Made All People of the World*

Affirmation of Responses

Rev. Russell

Pastoral Benediction and Charge

Rev. Russell

Postlude

Mr. Day

And all the people said...

**AMEN!**

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

- Today, 3/31: 5:30 p.m. - Fifth Sunday Church Family Fun Night  
Mon., 4/1: 4:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee meeting  
5:45 p.m. - Lenten (Supper &) Study  
Tue., 4/2: 10:00 a.m. - Lenten Study (& Lunch)  
Wed., 4/3: 5:30 p.m. - Youth group (gr. 6-12) weekly supper gathering  
6:15 p.m. - Lenten vespers service  
7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir rehearsal  
Thu., 4/4: 8:30 a.m. - WACC hosts Elyria Catholic High School student retreat  
6:00 p.m. - Worship Committee meeting  
Fri., 4/5: 7:00 p.m. - Advance Ministries Spring Retreat at Camp Christian begins (ends 4/7)

Today's image is *The Prodigal Son* (He Qi) [www.heqiart.com](http://www.heqiart.com)

Flowers in the chancel this morning are in honor of Shirley Shubert's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday (March 31), from her family; the arrangement containing lily-of-the-valley is in honor of Jane Hutson's April 3 birthday, from Brenda Keenan, her BFF and one-year-older cousin.

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waccelyria.org ♦ 440.323.4213 ♦ 301 Washington Ave; Elyria OH 44035

