



The People of Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
gathered for the
Worship of God
April 7, 2019 - 10:45 a.m.
Fifth 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

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

Rev. Russell

Meditation of Preparation

"Lent...gives me a season – every year – to turn over rocks, crouch down and look under the bed, sweep together the remnants of my last year, of my life, of the current day in search of whatever beauty may be there. It's my chance to look for the life that can be found in the midst, or something after, death."

--Rev. Dr. Monica Coleman, *Isn't Lent Depressing?*

*Hymn of Praise 696

For Beauty of Meadows

ST. DENIO

*Invocation

Ms. Nancy Walker

*Gloria Patri 36

Glory Be to the Father

MEINEKE

The Hebrew Bible Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

Ms. Walker

For the Word of God we encounter through the words of scripture...

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Prayer 97

Fairest Lord Jesus

ST. ELIZABETH

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Russell and Congregation

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.

Prayers of the People

Fairest Lord Jesus...

Let us see your beautiful work.

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

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts

Mr. Thomas

Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of WACC.

Offertory

Mr. Day

*Doxology 46

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Children age three through fifth grade depart for Children: Worship & Wonder following the Doxology.

Anthem

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Chancel Choir

The Gospel Reading

John 12:1-8

Rev. Russell

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Beauty for our God who is Beautiful

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground."
--Rumi, *The Book of Love*

Hymn of Communion 427

RHUDDLAN

Loving Lord, as Now We Gather

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

The Elder's Prayer

Ms. Jen Sweeten

The Words of Institution

Ms. Susan 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

Beautiful Savior, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Having been fed at this table, we give the beauty we have back to you, beauty's self and beauty's giver. AMEN.

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Russell

*Hymn of Discipleship

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

A prophet-woman broke a jar, by Love's divine appointing.
 With rare perfume she filled the room, presiding and anointing.
 A prophet-woman broke a jar, the sneers of scorn defying.
 With rare perfume she filled the room, preparing Christ for dying.
 Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth, for centuries were hidden,
 unsung, unwritten, and unheard, derided and forbidden,
 the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire, on free and slave descending,
 can tumble our dividing walls, our shame and sadness mending.

The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, by Love's divine ordaining,
 the friends we need, to serve and lead, their powers and gifts unchaining.
 The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, from women, men and children,
 the friends we need, to serve and lead. Rejoice, and make them welcome!

We have the present in our hands, a freighted time of changing
 We could withhold or give our gifts, our witness be transforming
 God gives the beauty of the space, just look to the horizon
 Now let us give the beauty back, perfume as love unending.

Affirmation of Responses

Pastoral Benediction and Charge

Postlude

And all the people said...

AMEN!

Rev. Russell

Rev. Russell

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.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

- Mon., 4/8: 3:00 p.m. - Stewardship Committee and Permanent Funds Trustees meeting
- 4:00 p.m. - Outreach Committee meeting
- 5:45 p.m. - Lenten (Supper &) Study
- 6:00 p.m. - Property Committee meeting
- Tue., 4/9: 10:00 a.m. - Lenten Study (& Lunch)
- 4:15 p.m. - Staff meeting
- 5:30 p.m. - Elders' supper meeting
- 7:00 p.m. - Board meeting
- Wed., 4/10: 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

Today's image is *Mary and Martha* (He Qi) www.heqiart.com

The red carnations in the chancel are in honor of Nathan Russell's April 6 birthday, from the Christian Education Committee. Sheila Smith supplied the pink roses in honor of Audrey Price's and Pat Schwarz's April 7 birthdays, and the yellow rose in memory of Clifford ("Smitty") Smith who died on this date in 2006.

