



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

Worship of God

October 13, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

Mr. Evan Collins

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

Rev. Russell

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

Meditation of Preparation

“Rather, the way of Jesus is the way of death and resurrection — the path of transition and transformation from an old way of being to a new way of being. To use the language of incarnation that is so central to John, Jesus incarnates the way. Incarnation means embodiment. Jesus is what the way embodied in a human life looks like.”

--Marcus J. Borg, *Reading the Bible Again*

*Hymn of Praise 356

We, Your People, God, Confessing

IN BABILONE

*Invocation

Ms. Liz Baumgartner

Mission and Ministry in the World

Ms. Jen Sweeten

Hymn of Prayer

Your Word Is Like a Lamp, O Lord†

ROCKINGHAM

Your word is like a lamp, O Lord, and like a
 You showed your love to us - ra - el, and to the
 God, speak op - en wide each heart and mind by your own
 light world to you guide our way; For in this ev - er
 bound by time sent your Son. A wit - ness with - out
 Spir - it, now we and place. Yet in the Bib - le
 pray, that in your script - ures
 chang - ing world, it bears your prom - ise ev - 'ry day.
 par - al - lel, the script - ures tell what you have done.
 we can see the bound - less reach - ing of your grace.
 we may find new strength to serve you ev - 'ry day.

Prayers of the People

Incarnate Word...
Lead us to find strength in you.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Congregational Response 593

Lead Me, Lord

LEAD ME LORD

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts

Ms. Baumgartner

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

Anthem

Words of Life

Chancel Choir

*Doxology 528

Give Thanks

GIVE THANKS

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong;" let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!**

(Children age three through fifth grade depart for Children: Worship & Wonder.)

The Reading

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Rev. Russell

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Unchained, Unbound Word

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"I know that the Bible is a special kind of book, but I find it as seductive as any other. If I am not careful, I can begin to mistake the words on the page for the realities they describe. I can begin to love the dried ink marks on the page more than I love the encounters that gave rise to them. If I am not careful, I can decide that I am really much happier reading my Bible than I am entering into what God is doing in my own time and place, since shutting the book to go outside will involve the very great risk of taking part in stories that are still taking shape. Neither I nor anyone else knows how these stories will turn out, since at this point they involve more blood than ink. The whole purpose of the Bible, it seems to me, is to convince people to set the written word down in order to become living words in the world for God's sake. For me, this willing conversion of ink back to blood is the full substance of faith."

--Barbara Brown Taylor, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*

Hymn of Communion 422

LINSTEAD

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

The Elder's Prayer

Becky Thompson

The Words of Institution

Rev. Russell

Please come forward to share in Communion. Partake by breaking off a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. (The bread is gluten-free.) If you are unable to come forward, someone will come to you.

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Russell

*Hymn of Discipleship 2 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

Affirmation of Responses 341

Rev. Russell

Pastoral Benediction and Charge

Rev. Russell

Postlude

*I Will Call upon the Lord
And all the people said...*

Mr. Collins

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.

†Hymn text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today, 10/13: 10:45 a.m. - Sunday school

Mon., 10/14: 4:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee meeting

5:00 p.m. - *Bible, Burger & Beer* at the Foundry Kitchen & Bar

Tue., 10/15: 6:30 p.m. - Joanna Circle at the home of Debbie Walker, 236 Sumner St., Oberlin

Wed., 10/16: 5:30 p.m. - Weekly youth group (grades 6-12) supper gathering

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thu., 10/17: 10:45 a.m. - Sarah Circle gathering and luncheon

Sat., 10/19: Hot Meal served at Elyria Salvation Army (Jan Moore/Barbara Terrell team)

Today's image is *Word Made Flesh* by Donald Jackson.

Flowers in the chancel are in honor of today's 40th wedding anniversary of
Dennis & Kimberly Wilhelm, with love from Kim.

The second floral arrangement is in memory of Bruce Siffert,
for his October 11 birthday, from the Siffert family.

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