



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

Worship of God

December 24, 2019
Christmas Eve
11:30 p.m.

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.

Prelude

Mr. Collins

Meditation for Preparation

"There is nothing so secular that it cannot be sacred, and that is one of the deepest messages of the Incarnation."

--Madeleine L'Engle, *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art*

*Hymn 148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Invocation

Rev. Russell

Hymn for the Christ Candle 128

One Candle Is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Three staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The lyrics are: Come, lis - ten the sounds of God - with - us ring clear, the child and the shep - herds at the man - ger a - pear. The Word is made flesh, and the Word's ev - er near. One can - dle is lit for the Christ - birth - day here!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Ms. Heidi & Mr. Brad Thimke

*Hymn 143

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Russell

Sermon

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"When we allow God to be born in us, there is no telling, no telling at all, what will come out."

--Barbara Brown Taylor, *Mixed Blessings*

*Hymn of Communion 150

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Invitation to Commune and Offer Ourselves, Tithes, and Gifts

Rev. Russell

The Elder's Prayer

Ms. Lisa Reshad

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.

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

Organ Dismissal
And all the people said...
AMEN!

Mr. Collins

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.

