



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

Worship of God

December 24, 2019
Christmas Eve
7:30 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

Handbell Medley

Whitechapel Ringers

Meditation of 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

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. Virginia Douglas and the Rev. Dennis & Mrs. DiAnne Schmidt

Music Slot

The First Noel

WACC Orchestra

Reading

Luke 2:1-5

Rev. Russell

*Hymn 144

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Reading

Luke 2:6-7

Rev Russell

Special Music

O Holy Night

Ms. Lydia Ward & Mr. Collins

Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Rev. Russell

*Hymn 155

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Reading

Luke 2:15-20

Rev. Russell

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts

Rev. Russell

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

Anthem

Good Christians, All Rejoice

Chancel Choir

*Doxology 162

GREENSLEEVES



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures here be-low.



Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host. Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost!



This, this is Christ who reigns, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

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*

Special Music

Christmas Medley Ms. Pam Sheetz and Mr. Collins

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

Organ Dismissal

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.

