



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

Worship of God

February 16, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.: Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany / Compassion Sunday

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

Abide with Us, O Lord Jesus Christ

Mr. Collins

Meditation of Preparation

"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

--J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

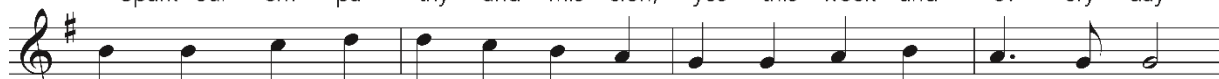
*Hymn of Praise

Hymn of Compassion†

HYMN TO JOY



Here, O God, your peo - ple gath - er to bring praise and of - fer - ings,
From our door - steps are dis - as - ters add - ing to your child - ren's strife
All a - round the globe are peo - ple seek - ing com - fort, ba - sic needs:
Spark our em - pa - thy and mis - sion, yes this week and ev - ery day



For Your love has rec - on - ciled us, such an awe - some, won - drous thing.
Earth - quakes, fires, tor - na - dos, weath - er hin - der joy and threat - en life.
Wa - ter, shelt - er, food, and cloth - ing for these things we in - ter - cede.
Work - ing toward de - vel - op - ment, re - lief, and peace so all may say



Your com - pas - sion, fierce and rest - less, sends us ___ out that we may be
Your com - pas - sion, fierce and rest - less, sends us ___ out that we may be
Your com - pas - sion, fierce and rest - less, sends us ___ out that we may be
Your com - pas - sion, fierce and rest - less, sends us ___ out that we may be



Your good news at ev - ery cor - ner, part of your great tap - es - try.
Your re - lief at ev - ery cor - ner, help - ing hands in min - is - try.
Your sup - ply at ev - ery cor - ner, so that all know lib - er - ty.
Your great love at ev - ery cor - ner, serv - ing all with dig - nii - ty.

*Invocation

Ms. Jane Hutson

Hymn of Prayer 457

Colorful Creator

HOUGHTON

Prayers of the People

Colorful Creator...

Rev. Russell

Make us agents of compassion.

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 305

CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

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

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts

Mr. Mark Mathes

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

Anthem

God of Our Life

Chancel Choir

*Doxology 23

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

Praise to God for grace and favor shown to all who are oppressed.

God shows steadfast love forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

The Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Ms. Marilyn Bauer

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Choose Life; Choose Compassion

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"A human being is part of a whole, called by us the 'Universe,' a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

--Albert Einstein, letter to Robert S. Marcus

Hymn of Communion 284

Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

The Elder's Prayer

Ms. Sandy Rieth

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 453 <i>Called as Partners in Christ's Service</i>		BEECHER
Affirmation of Responses 341		Rev. Russell
Pastoral Benediction and Charge		Rev. Russell
Postlude	<i>Bach – Bwv 601</i> 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.

Today's image is *Parshat Nitzavim* by Darius Gilmont; darius-art.com .

†Hymn text by Nathan Russell

CALENDAR

- Today, 2/16: 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School in Fellowship Hall with John Rodenberg, Week of Compassion, will share information about WoC's work in the refugee camps in Southeast Asia; refreshments will be provided.
(2/23: Mark Mathes, "Kenya: The Land and People You May Not Know")
- Mon., 2/17: 6:00 p.m. - Worship Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room
- Tue., 2/18: 6:30 p.m. - Joanna Circle gathering in the WACC parlors
- Pastoral Relations Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room
- Wed., 2/19: 5:30 p.m. - Weekly youth group (gr. 6-12) supper and gathering in Fellowship Hall and the youth rooms
6:25 p.m. - Whitechapel Ringers rehearsal in the sanctuary
7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary
- Thu., 2/20: 10:45 a.m. - Sarah Circle gathering and luncheon in the youth rooms
6:00 p.m. - Movie Night showing of *Hidden Figures* in the youth rooms
- Fri., 2/21: CYF Retreat at Camp Christian begins (ends 2/23)
- Sat., 2/22: 4:00 p.m. - Jesus and Dr. Seuss (faith formational class for ages 3-12 and their parents)

Flowers in the chancel this morning are in memory of Hal Clement and in recognition of his and Diane's wedding anniversary (2/16/63).

