

Advent

Hope Peace Joy Love

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

Worship of God

December 20, 2020, 9:30am: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Chiming the Hour

Mr. Evan Collins

Greeting

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

The Spirit of God is with you!
And also with you!

Call to Worship

Rev. Russell

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

Prelude

Mitzi Lindsey, Jennifer Butcher, and Evan Collins
Angels We Have Heard on High

Meditation for Preparation

"We call it a golden calf, but the deeper problem here is not what the idol is made of or looks like, but what the idol symbolizes, and what it says about what they believe about God. They choose to believe in a god who is available and immediate and manufactured, rather than the real God who requires their patience and whom they experience as mysterious and beyond comprehension. They choose to believe in a god they can touch rather than a God they have to wait for. The essence of the golden calf is that they choose to believe in a god that they create rather than in the God who created them. That is the one thing that all idols have in common. An idol for you is anything you create by your own power that puts God on your terms, that defines God in a way that is comfortable for you."

--Magrey R. deVega, *Songs for the Waiting*

Hymn of Praise 142

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Invocation

Mr. Don Hange, Jr.

Hymn of Advent

One Candle Is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Ms. Alice & Mr. Al Paul

Hymn of Prayer 133

like a child

LIKE A CHILD

Prayers of the People

God of Advent...

Grant us hope, peace, joy, and love.

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

Wait for the Lord

Taizé

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts

Rev. Russell

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

Offertory

Canon in D

String Quartet

Doxology *Doxology* VENI EMMANUEL
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Rejoice!
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us and with all people dwell.

The Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Rev. Russell
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Building a House Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Only in Christian community do we have the opportunity to practice rituals that anticipate the future... So much of what we do...is in remembrance and celebration of something that has not yet even happened... When we share in the reading of Scripture, we allow its messages to sink deep into our souls, preparing for its time-released power to be discharged. When we pray with one another, we do so in faith, knowing that our very act of prayer is a reach into the unknown and its consequences will be revealed somehow in the future. Faith is about celebrating things that will happen down the road. So whenever we get together, it is not just to remember something that has already happened but to anticipate the dawn of something new, exciting, and transformative."

--Magrey R. deVega, *Songs for the Waiting*

Hymn of Communion *All Are Welcome* TWO OAKS

Invitation to Commune Rev. Russell

Elder's Prayer Ms. Carol McIntyre

Words of Institution Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship *O How Shall We Receive You* ST. THEODULPH

Pastoral Benediction and Charge Rev. Russell

Postlude Collegiate Handbell Ensemble
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
And all the people said...
AMEN!

We Go to Love and Serve from Our Doorsteps to the Ends of the Earth

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Today, 12/20: 9:30am - Energetic, Liturgical Worship*
- Mon., 12/21: 7pm - Online *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart* premiere**
- Tue., 12/22: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)***
- Wed., 12/23: 7pm - theAlternative*
- Thu., 12/24: 4:30pm - Children Worship & Wonder Christmas Eve Service (led by Debbie Walker at waccelyria.org/online).
- 7:30pm: - Traditional Christmas Eve Service*
- 11:30pm: - theAlternative Christmas Eve Service*
- Fri., 12/25: MERRY CHRISTMAS! (The church office will be closed until January 4.)

*Sunday and Wednesday opportunities for worship, and our Christmas Eve services, premiere at their respective times on our website and YouTube channel (see waccelyria.org/online). Past services are available on our website and [YouTube channel](#).

***Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart* premieres online at: waccelyria.org/childrenscorner. Past episodes are available on our [YouTube channel](#).

***First-timers will want to register at waccelyria.org for these online, weekly devotional gatherings.

Prayer requests may be submitted by contacting the church office or online at: waccelyria.org/pray

Contributions may be submitted to the church office or online at: waccelyria.org/give

