



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

Worship of God

Thursday, December 24, 2020, 7:30pm: Christmas Eve

Welcoming Awe and Wonder

Collegiate Handbell Ensemble

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

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

Ms. Mitzi Lindsey, Ms. Jennifer Butcher, Mr. Collins
Away in a Manger

Meditation for Preparation

"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."

--Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Remembering Our Advent Journey

Rev. Russell

Special Music

Ms. Lindsey, Ms. Butcher, Mr. Collins
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Naming Christmas in a Global Pandemic

Rev. Russell

Hymn of Praise

O God, We Long for Better Days

GREENSLEEVES

Invocation

Rev. Russell

Hymn for the Christ Candle 128

One Candle Is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Ms. Kaleena, The Hon. Mayor Frank Whitfield, & Family

Hymn of Faith 148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Reading

Luke 2:1-5

Rev. Russell

Hymn of Bethlehem 165

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Reading

Luke 2:6-7

Rev. Russell

Special Music

O Holy Night

String Orchestra

Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Rev. Russell

Hymn of the Angels 155

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Reading	Luke 2:15-20	Rev. Russell
Hymn of Christmas 151	<i>The First Noel</i>	THE FIRST NOEL
Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts		Rev. Russell
Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of WACC.		
Offertory	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	Ms. Sharon Bohaty
Doxology		THE FIRST NOEL
<p>Praise God for gifts of hope and peace, praise God for gifts of joy and love, praise God for sending Christ to dwell on earth for us – Emmanuel. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the king of Israel.</p>		
Sermon	Repeat the Sounding Joy	Rev. Russell
Discipline of Silence		
<p>“Those on the margins, without power, thirsting for hope can find comfort [at Christmas]. Those who toil in the fields, picking the fruit of the earth, backs bent, knees sore. Those paid low wages, exposed to the elements, unsafe at times from predators; it is to these people across human history our God has come. Hearing the cries of the enslaved and the vulnerable; lighting a path home to those outside and cast away. Offering a cool dip of living water to those whose souls are scorched by the hot mess of their circumstances. God is...salvation. This eternal truth is cause for an eruption of joy.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, <i>You're My Joy</i></p>		
Hymn of Joy 143	<i>Joy to the World</i>	ANTIOCH
Lighting Our Candles		Rev. Russell
Hymn of the Night 145	<i>Silent Night</i>	STILLE NACHT
Pastoral Benediction and Charge		Rev. Russell
Postlude	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i> And all the people said... MERRY CHRISTMAS!	Mr. Collins

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

Today's image is *Messiah* by He Qi © www.heqiart.com

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun., 12/27: 9:30am - Energetic, Liturgical Worship*
- Mon., 12/28: 7pm - Online *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart* (reprise of 4:30 Christmas Eve worship service; led by Debbie Walker at waccelyria.org/online.)**
- Tue., 12/29: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)***
- Wed., 12/30: 7pm - theAlternative*
- Thu., 12/31: 10am - All-Church Social Hour (on Zoom)

*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

