



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

Worship of God

February 21, 2021, 9:30am: First Sunday in Lent

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

Prelude on Into the Woods

Mr. Collins

Meditation for Preparation

"To be commanded to love God at all, let alone in the wilderness, is like being commanded to be well when we are sick, to sing for joy when we are dying of thirst, to run when our legs are broken. But this is the first and great commandment nonetheless. Even in the wilderness - especially in the wilderness - you shall love God."

--Frederick Buechner, *A Room Called Remember: Uncollected Pieces*

Hymn of Praise

Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

EBENEZER

Invocation

Ms. Jane Hutson

Hymn of Prayer 538

Hope of the World

VICAR

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises, and turn us toward the future you want and ultimately will have. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life.

Prayers of the People

Hope of the world...
Walk now beside us.

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 202

PASSION CHORALE

Hear Now the Prayer We Offer

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts Rev. Russell
Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of WACC.

Offertory *Jesus, Tempted in the Desert* Mr. Collins

Doxology 200 *Doxology* WONDROUS LOVE
To God and to the Lamb we will sing, we will sing, to God and to the Lamb we will sing! To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while millions join the theme, we will sing, we will sing, while millions join the theme, we will sing!

The Reading Mark 1:9-15 Rev. Russell
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...
Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Into the Wilderness* Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence
"Sometimes people leave you halfway through the wood; others may deceive you, you decide what's good. You decide alone, but no one is alone."
--Stephen Sondheim, *Into the Woods*

Hymn of Communion *When We Are Tested* MYRRH-BEARING MARY

Invitation to Commune Rev. Russell

Elder's Prayer Ms. Janet Stevens-Brown

Words of Institution Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 458 *Ours the Journey* OURS THE JOURNEY

Benediction and Charge Rev. Russell

Postlude *Vicar* Mr. Collins
And all the people said...
AMEN!

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

John baptizes Jesus; JESUS MAFA. JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today, 2/21: 9:30am - Energetic, Liturgical Worship*
Mon., 2/22: 4:30pm - Christian Education Committee meeting (on Zoom)
7pm - Lenten Study: Dr. Jennifer Harvey's *Dear White Christians* (on Zoom)
7pm - Online *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart* premiere**
Tue., 2/23: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)***
4pm - Church Life & Growth Committee meeting (on Zoom)
Wed., 2/24: 7pm - theAlternative*
Thu., 2/25: 10am - All-Church Social Hour (on Zoom)****

*Sunday and Wednesday opportunities for worship 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.

****Contact the church office for log-in information for this bi-weekly gathering.

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

