



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

Worship of God

May 16, 2021, 9:30am: Ascension Sunday

Chiming the Hour

Mr. Evan Collins

Greeting

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

The Spirit of the Resurrected Christ is with you!
And also with you!

Call to Worship

Rev. Russell

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

Prelude

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Mr. Collins

Meditation for Preparation

"Ascending into heaven to be seated at the right hand of God...is where Jesus and I part company. That is where he leaves me in the dust. My only experience of the Ascension is from the ground, my neck cranked back as far as it will go, my mouth wide open, my face shielded from the sun by the cloud that is bearing my Lord away."

--Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Day We Were Left Behind*

Hymn of Praise 233

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Invocation

Ms. Brenda Keenan

Hymn of Prayer 76

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

CRIMOND

Prayers of the People

God, the Eagle...
Bear us with your mighty wings.

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

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts

Rev. Russell

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

Offertory *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Mr. Collins

Doxology *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 Acts 1:1-11 Rev. Russell
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...
Thanks be to God.

Sermon *A New Beginning* Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"God's plan was to gift the same power by which Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven to the followers of Jesus, to bathe us in it in a holy fire baptism that will burn within us but not destroy us. God's plan is that we be in communion with God and each other, fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit to love as God loves. The Ascension is a sign, pointing towards what is to come. The church, God's body on earth, will be filled with the Holy Spirit, the love of God incarnate in Jesus, and the world will never be the same."

--The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, *Ascended to Where?*

Hymn of Communion 403 *In Remembrance of Me* IN REMEMBRANCE

Invitation to Commune Rev. Russell

Elder's Prayer Mr. Bob Maxwell

Words of Institution Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship *The Trees of the Field* THE TREES OF THE FIELD

Benediction and Charge Rev. Russell

Postlude *Wake, the Dawn Is Now Full Rising* Mr. Collins
And all the people said...
AMEN!

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

The Ascension (1973) 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, 5/16: 9:30am - Energetic, Liturgical Worship*
- Mon., 5/17: 6:30pm - Quarterly Pastoral Relations Committee meeting (on Zoom)
7pm - *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart* premiere**
- Tue., 5/18: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (Zoom)***
5pm - Outreach Committee meeting (on Zoom)
7pm - Joanna Circle gathering
- Wed., 5/19: 7pm - theAlternative*
- Thu., 5/20: 10am - All-Church Social Hour (on Zoom)****
- Sun., 5/23: 9:30am - PENTECOST ~ We return to weekly, in-person worship in the sanctuary!
6pm - Online premiere of the 9:30am worship service*

*All Sunday and Wednesday worship 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.

****Contact the church office for the log-in information for this bi-weekly, online chat.

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

