



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

Worship of God

November 28, 2021, 9:30am: First Sunday of Advent

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

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

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

Call to Worship

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

Rev. Russell

Prelude

Mr. Evan Collins

Meditation for Preparation

“Did the Blessed Virgin say, ‘me too’? There is a moment in the Annunciation story when an ordinary girl on the cusp of womanhood is approached by a powerful male figure who tells her what is going to happen to her body, in its most intimate spaces. Sit with me in this moment, this uncomfortable moment, before rushing to find proof of her consent, or argue that contemporary notions of consent do not apply to ancient texts, or God knew she’d say yes so it was prophetic, or contend that (human) gender does not apply to divine beings, Gabriel or God, and the Holy Spirit is feminine anyway. Hold those thoughts and just sit in the moment with this young woman.”

--Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, *Did Mary Say “Me Too”?*

Hymn of Praise (Insert)

Savior of the Nations, Come!†

TRURO

Invocation

Ms. Jane Hutson

Hymn of Advent 128

One Candle Is Lit (v. 1)

CRADLE SONG

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Jane Hutson, Brenda Keenan, Lauri Figueroa

Hymn of Prayer 184

Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly

PLEADING SAVIOR

Prayers of the People

God incarnate...
Come to earth.

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.

God Almighty, We Are Waiting



God Al - might - y, we are wait - ing for a sav - ior to ap - pear.
 God In - car - nate, we are wait - ing for the feast day of your birth.
 God, the Spir - it, we are wait - ing for your pres - ence here and now.



Meet us in our des - ert jour - ney; give a sign that you are near:
 Look - ing back and look - ing for - ward to the Christ's re - turn to earth.
 Hum - bled by our sin - ful weak - ness, at your mer - cy we will bow.



burn - ing bush - es, part - ed wa - ters, fod a - plen - ty in the wild.
 Help us to pro - claim the gos - pel, till the world is rec - on - ciled.
 Search our hearts and make us read - y, speak in lan - guage strong and mild,



As we look for signs and won - ders, help us see you in a child.
 Let us set your ho - ly ta - ble for each wo - man, man and child.
 help each one of us, your peo - ple, to re - ceive you as a child.

Savior of the Nations, Come!



Sav - ior of the nat - tions, come! Vir - gin's son, here make your home!
 Not by hu - man flesh and blood; by the Spir - it of our God
 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;
 Now your low - ly man - ger bright hal - lows night with new - born light.



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 born of Mar - y, moth - er blest, God in flesh is man - i - fest.
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 Through the night let light come due, let our faith shine ev - er new.

Congregational Response	<i>Wait for the Lord</i>	FRANCE
Wait for the Lord, his day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!		
Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts		Rev. Russell
Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of WACC.		
Offertory	<i>How Great Our Joy</i>	Quartific
Doxology	<i>Doxology</i>	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	Luke 1:26-38	Rev. Russell
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...		
Thanks be to God.		
Sermon	<i>An Unexpected Announcement</i>	Rev. Russell
Discipline of Silence	<p>"The Annunciation was not so much a vision as an earthquake in which God moved the universe and unsettled the spheres, and the beginning and end of all things came before her in her deepest heart. And far beneath the movement of this silent cataclysm Mary slept in the infinite tranquility of God, and God was a child curled up who slept in her and her veins were flooded with His wisdom which is night, which is starlight, which is silence. And her whole being was embraced in Him whom she embraced and they became tremendous silence." --Thomas Merton</p>	
Hymn of Communion 397 (Insert)		HOLY MANNA
<i>God Almighty, We Are Waiting⁺⁺</i>		
Invitation to Commune		Rev. Russell
Prayer at the Table		Ms. Lauri Warfield
Words of Institution		Rev. Russell
Invitation to Discipleship		Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 135

Blessed Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

Benediction and Charge

Rev. Russell

Postlude

Mr. Collins

And all the people said...

AMEN!

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

Today's artwork is *The Annunciation: Gabriel and Mary*. 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.

*Words by Ambrose of Milan

**Words by Ann Bell Worley

Quartific is comprised of Evan Collins, Mark Mathes, Alan Petersen, and Bob Rieth

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Today, 11/28: 9:30am - Energetic, liturgical worship in the sanctuary
11am - Hanging of the Greens, soup luncheon, and Community Choir rehearsal
6pm - YouTube premiere of the 9:30am worship service
- Mon., 11/29: 7pm - YouTube premiere of *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart*
- Tue., 11/30: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)*
4pm - Church Life & Growth Committee meeting (hybrid)
- Wed., 12/1: 9am - Audit Committee meeting (hybrid)
7pm - YouTube premiere of the Alternative
- Thu., 12/2: 10am - All-Church Social Hour (on Zoom)**
5:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting (on Zoom)

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

**Contact the church office for the link to 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

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