



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

## Worship of God

December 5, 2021, 9:30am: Second 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

*Canon in D*

String Quartet

Meditation for Preparation

"Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities."  
--Gloria Steinem

Hymn of Praise 125

*Come, O Long-expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

Invocation

Ms. Debbie Walker

Hymn of Advent 128

*One Candle Is Lit (v. 2)*

CRADLE SONG

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Val Collins, Cindy Johnson, Sheila Smith, Dawna White

Hymn of Prayer

*Oh, How Shall We Receive You?*

ST. THEODULPH

Prayers of the People

God, Emmanuel...  
**Inspire our hearts.**

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*

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

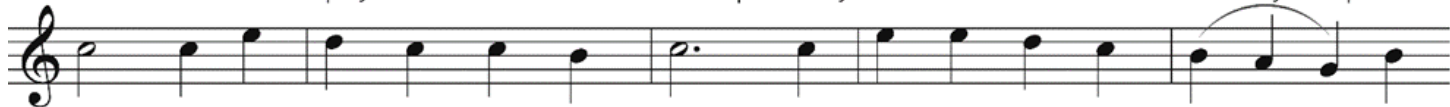
*Take Now My Voice*

WACC Community Choir

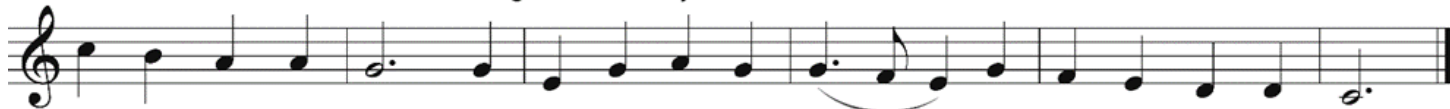
## Oh, How Shall We Receive You



Oh, how shall we re - ceive you, how meet you on your way, bless'd hope of ev' - ry  
Love caused your in - car - nat - tion; Love brought you here to us. Your thirst for our sal -  
You en - ter, Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good will, to bring an end to  
Hear now the prayer we of - fer: "Come quick - ly as to save! We need your Spir - it



na - tion, our soul's de - light and stay? O Je - sus, Je - sus, give us now  
va - tion, pro - cured our lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that  
sad - ness and bid our fears be still. We wel - come you, our Sav - ior; come  
with us to make it through these days. You are our God, Em - man - u - el, in -



by thine own pure light to know what - e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.  
led you to em - brace, in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our trou - bled hu - man race.  
gath - er us to you, that in your light e - ter - nal our joy - ous home is true.  
spire our hearts, we pray, to make the for - ward leap of faith and trust your fu - ture reign."

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 Luke 1:39-45 Rev. Russell  
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *A Leap of Faith* Rev. Russell

### Discipline of Silence

"There is nothing anti-intellectual in the leap of faith, for faith is not believing without proof but trusting without reservation. Faith is no substitute for thinking. On the contrary, it is what makes good thinking possible. It has what we might call a limbering effect on the mind; by taking us beyond familiar ground, faith ends up giving us that much more to think about... If we give our lives to Christ, if we leave familiar territory and take the leap of faith, what we receive in return fills our minds altogether as much as it fills our hearts."

--William Sloane Coffin, *Credo*

Hymn of Communion 14 *Womb of Life, and Source of Being* BABILONE

Invitation to Commune Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table Ms. Megan Rowe

Words of Institution Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 132 *When God Is a Child* MOON BEAMS

Benediction and Charge Rev. Russell

Postlude *Gigue* String Quartet  
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 *Mary & Elizabeth* © 2018 by Lauren Wright Pittman. Mary and Elizabeth affirm, comfort, and support one another in the unexpected, strange circumstances of their pregnancies. Elizabeth instantly recognizes that Mary is pregnant and is filled to the brim with the Holy Spirit, so much so that she exclaims that Mary is blessed among women and the mother of the Lord. What an amazingly confident and prophetic statement she makes. It is unclear, exactly, of the reason for Mary's visiting Elizabeth. She may have been seeking comfort or community, or she may have been wanting to offer comfort to Elizabeth. Whatever her intentions, it is clear that Mary is emboldened and empowered by Elizabeth's affirmations as she breaks into the Magnificat. It is as though Elizabeth's words, "Blessed is she who believed," creates space in Mary's heart to proclaim the broad implications of what is taking place within her womb. I wanted to depict the creative energy, communication, and power that was taking place in Mary and Elizabeth's wombs in this moment. Mary's womb swirls with the knitting together of the One through whom all things came into being, while Elizabeth's womb radiates joy with the leaping of the one who will spend his life directing attention, awe and reverence to the One in Mary's womb.

\*Words by Paul Gerhardt; trans. Arthur T. Russell; adapt & v. 4 Nathan A. Russell, 2021

Today's string quartet is comprised of Alivia Gaskins, Alexis Facaros, Hannah Reinschmidt, and Hannah Ross.

Flowers in the chancel today are in memory of Darrell Harris, with love from Mom and family.

### **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

- Today, 12/5: 9:30am - Energetic, liturgical worship in the sanctuary  
11am - *Two or More* sermon/scripture discussion group  
6pm - YouTube premiere of the 9:30am worship service
- Mon., 12/6: 3pm - Worship Committee meeting (hybrid)  
6-8pm - Labyrinth open  
7pm - YouTube premiere of *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart*
- Tue., 12/7: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)\*
- Wed., 12/8: 7pm - YouTube premiere of the *Alternative*
- Sat., 12/11: Worship Committee work session (poinsettia set-up)

\*First-timers may register at [waccelyria.org](http://waccelyria.org) for these online, weekly devotional gatherings.

Prayer requests may be submitted by contacting the church office or online at: [waccelyria.org/pray](http://waccelyria.org/pray)

Contributions may be submitted to the church office or online at: [waccelyria.org/give](http://waccelyria.org/give)

Permission to print the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #73174-A. All rights reserved.

