



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

Worship of God

December 12, 2021, 9:30am: Third 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

Meditation for Preparation

"The song of Mary is about the unthinkable turn in human destinies when all seemed impossible: "For with God nothing will be impossible." ... The old order had left nothing but enslavement/guilt/judgment/darkness and hostility, and no one could see how that could ever change. It will not be explained but only sung about, for the song penetrates royal reason. The song releases energy that the king can neither generate nor prevent. The transformation is unmistakable. Tongues long dumb in hopelessness could sing again."

--Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*

Hymn of Praise 139

All Earth Is Waiting

TAULÈ

Invocation

Mr. Alan Petersen

Hymn of Advent 128

One Candle Is Lit (v. 3)

CRADLE SONG

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Megan & Kevin Doan

Hymn of Prayer (Insert)

Canticle of the Turning⁺

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

Prayers of the People

God of our heart...
Turn this world around.

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

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, his day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Canticle of the Turning



My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my
Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your
From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the
Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us fast: God's



spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from the throne. The
mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn, so from
ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will
hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can nev - er earn; there are
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us bound, till the



east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
ta - bles spread, ev - ery mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fire of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -



way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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

Offertory

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 1:46-56 Rev. Russell
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...
Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Jesus Is Coming for You* Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Together, we envision a land that is liberated, not lawless. We create a future that is free, not flawless. Again & again, over & over, we will stride up every mountainside, magnanimous & modest. We will be protected & served by a force that is honored & honest. This is more than protest. It's a promise."

--Amanda Gorman, *Fury & Faith*

Hymn of Communion 138 REJOICE, REJOICE
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Invitation to Commune Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table Mr. Bob Maxwell

Words of Institution Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 140 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* SHEFFIELD

Benediction and Charge Rev. Russell

Postlude

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's Song* © 2016 by Lauren Wright Pittman, who says, "When I read through the Magnificat, I was overwhelmed with the gravity of this moment. Her reaction to finding out that she, a young virgin, would birth the Son of the Creator of the universe was to sing a song of overflowing praise affirming God's goodness and sovereignty. It seems as if the entire universe revolved on the axis of this moment. Her song carried me to the creation narrative where God's very words materialize water and sky and light and animals and people... everything we know to be and will ever know. As I read the Magnificat, I imagined that her tones of adoration, melody of acceptance, and rhythm of awe ushered in the heartbeat of Jesus within her womb. Mary's song became the score for a new creation narrative. In this piece, I imaged all of creation embracing Mary in this moment as the creation narrative echoes in her womb."

+Words by Rory Cooney

Our thanks to the Midview High School Choir for today's special music.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Today, 12/12: 9:30am - Energetic, liturgical worship in the sanctuary
11am - *Two or More* sermon/scripture discussion group
- Community Choir rehearsal
6pm - YouTube premiere of the 9:30am worship service
- Mon., 12/13: 5pm - Outreach Committee meeting (on Zoom)
7pm - YouTube premiere of *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart*
- Tue., 12/14: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)*
5:30pm - Elders' supper meeting (hybrid)
7pm - Board meeting (hybrid)
- Wed., 12/15: 5:30pm - Youth Cupcake Decorating Contest (ends 7:30pm)
7pm - YouTube premiere of the Alternative
- Thu., 12/16: 10am - All-Church online Social Hour**

*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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