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“Words by Adam M.L. Tice, 4th v. Nathan A. Russell

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Sat., 12/25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

December 19, 2021, 9:30am: Fourth 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

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Call to Worship
Lift up your hearts...
We lift them to the Lord!
Rev. Russell

Prelude
Ms. Linda Bohnert

Meditation for Preparation
"To live a life in the spirit, to be true to a life of the spirit, we have to be willing to be called
on—often in ways that we may not like."
--bell hooks, Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope

Hymn of Praise (Insert)
THE FLIGHT OF THE EARLS
Come, Join in Mary’s Prophet Song+

Invocation
Ms. Bonnie Jackson

Hymn of Advent 128
One Candle Is Lit (v. 4)
CRADLE SONG

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle
Kimberly Wilhelm, Dennis Wilhelm,
Sammi Wilhelm, Christen Wilhelm, Natalie Skiba, Madison Skiba

Hymn of Prayer 134
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
McGEE

Prayers of the People
God, Emmanuel...
Be with us now and always.

The Lord’s Prayer
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, his day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!
FRANCE

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

Offertory
Ms. Linda and Mr. John Bohnert

Doxology
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
Matthew 1:18-25
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...

Sermon
The Birth of Jesus Happened Like This?

Discipline of Silence
"The light of love is always in us, no matter how cold the flame. It is always present, waiting
for the spark to ignite, waiting for the heart to awaken and call us back to the first memory of
being the life force inside a dark place waiting to be born—waiting to see the light."
--bell hooks, All About Love: New Visions

Hymn of Communion 142
People, Look East
BESANÇON

Invitation to Commune
Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table
Mr. Mark Mathes

Words of Institution
Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship
Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 143
Joy to the World
ANTIOCH

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
Come, Join in Mary’s Prophet Song

Come, join in Mary’s prophet song of justice for the earth, for Emmanu-el, God with us here, grows peace where we would dare to right outgrows the fiercest wrong, revealing human worth; bound angels sang to greet the Word, whose birth is victory. The justice come and love flow down, affirming each one’s worth. God’s not within the wealth we crave or in the arms we bear, but maiden Mary, not so mild, bore into death’s domain true image God made “us” to be is also borne on “them.” Christ future reign is not far off, indeed, it has begun! And

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God, and yet an infant child, who over death would reign. bids us join our enemy to sing war’s requiem. we, God’s people, spirit filled, will work until it’s done!

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