



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

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

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.

Come, Join in Mary's Prophet Song

Come, join in Mar - y's proph - et song of jus - tice for the earth, for
 The "Peace on Earth" which shep - herds heard is not some fan - ta - sy. The
 Em - man - u - el, God with us here, grows peace where we would dare to
 So, let us sing her song of love through - out the whole wide earth: "Let
 right out - grows the fier - est wrong, re - veal - ing hu - man worth; bound
 an - gels sang to greet the Word, whose birth is vic - to - ry. The
 act - de - spite our trem - bling fear, and bring God's ho - ly care. The
 jus - tice come and love flow down, af - firm - ing each one's worth. God's
 not with - in the wealth we crave or in the arms we bear, but
 maid - en Mar - y, not so mild, bore in - to death's do - main true
 im - age God made "us" to be is al - so borne on "them." Christ
 fu - ture reign is not far off, in - deed, it has be - gun!" And
 in the ho - ly sign God gave; the im - age that we share.
 God, and yet an in - fant child, who o - ver death would reign.
 bids us join our spir - it filled, will to sing war's req - ui - em.
 we, God's peo - ple, spir - it filled, will work un - til it's done!

Offertory

Ms. Linda and Mr. John Bohnert

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

Matthew 1:18-25

Rev. Russell

For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Birth of Jesus Happened Like This?

Rev. Russell

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

Mr. Evan 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 *Contours of Mary's Dream* by Laura Wright Pittman © 2020, who writes, "I have this instinct to read the Magnificat alongside the first Creation narrative in Genesis. I imagine Christ taking form in Mary's womb much like I imagine all of Creation emerging at the Creator's voice. I collaged macro photography of patterns, textures, and colors from Creation—such as sunsets, bird's feathers, fish scales, galaxies, leaves, planets, fur, water, etc.—and wove them into her hair. Jesus, the thread of Creation, is being knit together in her womb. God's dream for all Creation is materializing as cells divide in her body; all the while she sings of a dream, still unrealized."

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Today, 12/19: 9:30am - Energetic, liturgical worship in the sanctuary
11am - *Two or More* scripture discussion group in the Gibbens conference room
- Community Choir rehearsal
6pm - YouTube premiere of the 9:30am worship service
Mon., 12/20: 7pm - YouTube premiere of *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart*
Tue., 12/21: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)*
Wed., 12/22: 7pm - YouTube premiere of theAlternative
Fri., 12/24: 4:30pm - Children Worship & Wonder service
7:30m - Worship in the sanctuary
11:30pm - Worship in-person and livestreamed from theAlternative
Sat., 12/25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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



We are thrilled that you are worshiping God with us in-person and/or online. Scan this QR code with a smartphone to register your attendance, submit a prayer request, and make an online contribution.

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