



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

Worship of God

December 26, 2021, 9:30am: First Sunday of Christmastide

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	<p>"When we illuminate the road back to our ancestors, they have a way of reaching out, of manifesting themselves...sometimes even physically." --Raquel Cepeda, <i>Bird of Paradise</i></p>	
Hymn of Praise 150	<i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i>	MENDELSSOHN
Invocation		Mr. Don Hange, Jr.
Hymn of Prayer 162	<i>What Child Is This</i>	GREENSLEEVES
Prayers of the People	<p>Christ, the child... Bring salvation to all the earth.</p>	
The Lord's Prayer 307		MALOTTE
	<p>Our Father, which 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.</p>	
Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts		Rev. Russell
	<p>Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of WACC.</p>	
Offertory		Mr. Collins

Doxology

Doxology

THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace, praise God for gifts of joy and love, praise God for sending Christ to dwell on earth for us – Emmanuel. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the king of Israel.

The Reading

Matthew 1:1-16

Rev. Russell

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

How Did They Get Here?

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Surely Matthew has more in mind than airing Israel's dirty laundry or denigrating women. It is worth noting that women are rarely if ever listed in ancient Jewish genealogies, so it's a big deal for these women to be named at all. A little more digging into the text and a closer look at these women within the cultural context of their world (not ours) surfaces reasons why Matthew intended to honor these women, not to shame them."

--Carolyn Custis James, *The Fab Four*

Hymn of Communion 163

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Ms. Debby Willets

Words of Institution

Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 144

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

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 Four* by Tricia Robinson triciarobinson.com.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today, 12/26: 9:30am - Energetic, liturgical worship in the sanctuary
11am - *Two or More* scripture discussion group in the Gibbens conference room
6pm - YouTube premiere of the 9:30am worship service
Mon., 12/27: 7pm - YouTube premiere of *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart*
Tue., 12/28: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)*
4pm - Holiday Wonder online scavenger hunt**
Thu., 12/30: 10am - All-Church online Social Hour (on Zoom)***
Sat., 1/1/22: Happy New Year!

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

**Contact Debbie Walker for the link or consult the 12/22 edition of *The Spire*.

***Contact the church office for the link to this bi-weekly, online chat.



We are thrilled that you are worshipping 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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