



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

Worship of God

January 9, 2022, 9:30am: First Sunday after the Epiphany

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. Jason Falkofsky

Meditation for Preparation

"It's the way of all ancient stories. The young man must go 'down' in order to find the right path for going 'up.' Call it the 'time of ashes.' In some African tribes the young boys must cover their faces with ashes before their initiation into manhood. In certain Nordic cultures the young boys used to sit down in the ashes by the fire in the center of the lodge house until they were ready to take on their adult role. And everybody knows about Cinderella, the girl who had to tend to the cinders and do all the other lowly chores until her true identity became known."

--Sidney Poitier, *The Measure of a Man*

Hymn of Praise (Insert)

*Jesus' Parents Left the Temple*¹

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Invocation

Ms. Kathy Wainwright

Hymn of Prayer 55

O God of Every Shining Constellation

VICAR

Prayers of the People

O God of Every Shining Constellation...
Grant us your Spirit's true illumination.

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 313

Amen

STAINER

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts

Rev. Russell

Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of WACC.

Offertory

Mr. Falkofsky

Doxology

HYMN TO JOY

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Jesus' Parents Left the Temple



Je - sus' par - ents left the Tem - ple with a trav - eling car - a - van.
They went back and fi - n'ly found him with the teach - ers of the Law.
Still his moth - er had to scold him, for she'd known a par - ent's fear.
God of love, with earth - ly par - ents, Je - sus lis - tened, learned, and grew.



They were sure their son was with them as they left Je - ru - sa - lem.
What they wit - nessed was as - tound - ing! What a won - drous sight they saw.
"We were wor - ried!" Ma - ry told him, "when we could not find you near!"
In the Tem - ple, in your pres - ence, he knew he was home with you.



Soon they cried, "We can - not find him!" He was some - how left be - hind them,
For the ques - tions he was rais - ing showed his knowl - edge was a - maz - ing;
Je - sus an - swered Ma - ry, say - ing, "Did you not know I'd be stay - ing;
We're re - mind - ed of his wis - dom; he al - read - y knew his mis - sion



so they went to search for him, so they went to search for him.
all who heard him were in awe. All who heard him were in awe.
in my Ab - ba's house, right here. In my Ab - ba's house, right here.
and the work that he would do, and the work that he would do.

The Reading

Luke 2:41-51

Rev. Russell

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

All Who Heard Him Were Amazed

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Dear Child of God, I write these words because we all experience sadness, we all come at times to despair, and we all lose hope that the suffering in our lives and in the world will ever end. I want to share with you my faith and my understanding that this suffering can be transformed and redeemed. There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case. Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now--in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally. ... Indeed, God is transforming the world now--through us--because God loves us."

--Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream*

Hymn of Communion

Holy Spirit, Teacher, Friend²

JOY'S TUNE

Ho - ly Spir - it, Teach - er, Friend, mov - ing con - stant - ly be - side us,
 Pe - ter, pray - ing, heard your voice, tell - ing him God's wid - er vi - sion:
 Spir - it, Love that chang - es not, though our world with change is reel - ing,

far from blind, un - think - ing faith with your wis - dom nur - ture, guide us.
 "All who love me are my own; make a - mong them no di - vi - sion."
 shape our vi - sion, stretch our hearts, Gods way for this time re - veal - ing.

Teach our eyes new ways of see - ing, minds from time - worn hab - its free - ing.
 Pe - ter changed old ways, re - ceiv - ing ev - ery - one who came be - liev - ing.
 Grant us deep - ened un - der - stand - ing, strength to fol - low God's com - mand - ing.

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Mr. Mark Mathes

Words of Institution

Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Russell

Speak, O Lord



Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food of your ho - ly Word.
Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty.
Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.



Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness, that the
Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty. Cause our
Truths un - changed from the dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, any by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail; let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Hymn of Discipleship (Insert)

Speak, O Lord³

SPEAK O LORD

Benediction and Charge

Rev. Russell

Postlude

Mr. Falkofsky

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 *Jesus among the teachers*, 1973. JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

¹Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

²Words by Joy F. Patterson

³Words by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Today, 1/9: 9:30am - Energetic, liturgical worship in the sanctuary
11am - *Two or More* scripture discussion group in the Gibbens room
6pm - YouTube premiere of the 9:30am worship service
- Mon., 1/10: 7pm - YouTube premiere of *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart*
- Tue., 1/11: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)*
5:30pm - Elders' meeting in the Elders' conference room (hybrid)
7pm - Board meeting in the music room (hybrid)
- Wed., 1/12: 7pm - YouTube premiere of theAlternative
- Thu., 1/13: 10am - Social Hour (on Zoom)**

*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.



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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