



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

Worship of God

March 13, 2022, 9:30am: The Second Sunday in Lent

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

"We had entered an era of limitlessness, or the illusion thereof, and this in itself is a sort of wonder. My grandfather lived a life of limits, both suffered and strictly observed, in a world of limits. I learned much of that world from him and others, and then I changed; I entered the world of labor-saving machines and of limitless cheap fossil fuel. It would take me years of reading, thought, and experience to learn again that in this world limits are not only inescapable but indispensable."

--Wendell Berry, *Bringing it to the Table*

Hymn of Praise

*Creator of the Intertwined*¹

KINGSFOLD

Invocation

Ms. Jane Hutson

Hymn of Prayer 570

Sweet Hour of Prayer!

SWEET HOUR

Prayer of Confession

God of boundless grace, we want to go back to Eden. Life in your garden requires limits and boundaries, and we confess that we don't always want to live within that covenant. Ego and self-sufficiency get the best of us, and we desire independence, safety, and security for ourselves. These are some of the serpents with which we must contend every morning of the world. They tempt us to test the limits. As a result of giving in, we find that we don't have more of anything except the oppressive weights of guilt and shame. Grant us the wisdom to trust that your parameters are for our well-being and not our harm. Remind us that we live in your garden, even now. Finally, give us the faith to trust that there are no limits to your love for all.

Prayers of the People

God, our Savior...
Help us trust your boundless grace.

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.

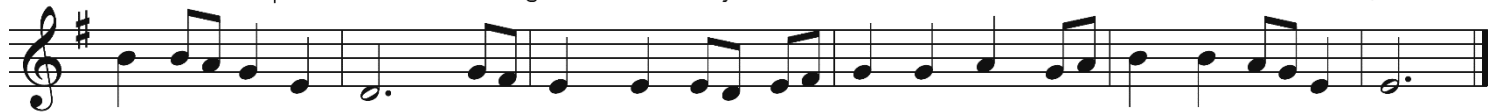
Creator of the Intertwined



Cre - a - tor of the in - ter - twined, you made each soul u - nique: each one with ears to
The song of peace best sung by all: strength born of u - ni - ty. In har - mo - ny we
In e - vil's wake we all are hurt; when prick'd all hu - mans bleed. With com - mon wounds and
Teach us to cher - ish what is strange and so the rich - er be; to lis - ten with our



hear faith's call, each one with voice to speak. Each wor - ships where the call is heard, in
cel - e - brate your gift: di - ver - si - ty. Can we not sing each oth - er's songs? Speak
shared de - spair, we seek the balm we need. We do not ask be - fore we reach to
hearts and speak with lov - ing hon - es - ty. From dif - f'rent sourc - es com - fort comes, each

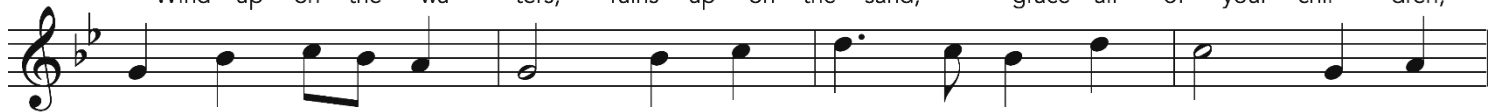


for - est, tem - ple, dome, on moun - tain top, in up - per room, the soul must find a home.
un - fa - mil - iar prayer? Re joic - ing in the boun - ty of the dif - f'ren - ces we share.
of - fer our em - brace. We do not ask, "How do you pray?" We reach with arms of grace.
seeks for the Di - vine: your voice speaks man - y lan - gua - ges, just one of them is mine.

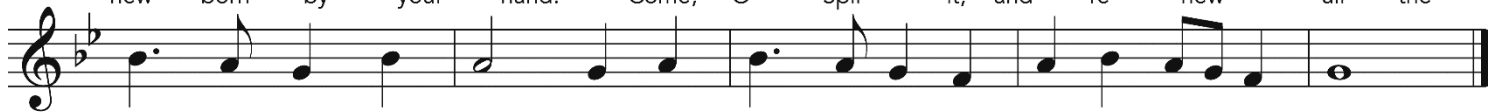
Wind upon the Waters



Wind up - on the wa - ters, Voice up - on the deep, rouse all of your chil - dren,
Show - ers from the heav - ens, wa - ter from the earth, gift so whol - ly giv - en,
Rock and hill and gar - den, wood and des - ert sand, prai - rie, field, and mead - ow,
Blaz - ing light of won - der, flame that pierc - es night, burst all gloom a - sun - der,
Wind up - on the wa - ters, rains up - on the sand, grace all of your chil - dren,



wake us from our sleep, breath - ing life in - to all flesh, breath - ing
source of ev - 'ry birth, joy of ev - 'ry liv - ing thing, mak - ing
shaped by Love's own hand, love that fills the world a - round, spring - ing
fill our souls with light, Lord of glo - ry, fill the skies, make an
new - born by your hand. Come, O Spir - it, and re - new all the



love in - to all hearts, Liv - ing Wind up - on the wa - ters of our souls.
all cre - a - tion sing, show - er down up - on the dry earth of our souls.
up from bar - ren ground, grow your love with - in the gar - den of our souls.
end to ha - tred's cries, be the blaz - ing sun of jus - tice in our lives.
life that comes from you, send your winds up - on the wa - ters of our souls.



Cleanse us, blood of Je-sus, take bit-ter-ness a - way; let us for-give as ones for-giv'n and bring us peace to - day.

Invitation to Stewardship

Rev. Russell

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

Offertory

Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

Whitechapel Ringers

Doxology

WONDROUS LOVE

To God and to the Lamb we will sing, we will sing, to God and to the Lamb we will sing! To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while millions join the theme, we will sing, we will sing, while millions join the theme, we will sing!

The Reading

Genesis 3:1-7

Rev. Russell

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Back to the Garden: Testing the Limits

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"The truly awful thing about beauty is that it reminds us of our limits. Beauty is a kind of unrelenting cruelty. It takes truth, hones it to a terrifying keenness, and uses it to slice us to the bone."

--Brandon Taylor, *Real Life*

Hymn of Communion

*Wind upon the Waters*²

WIND UPON THE WATERS

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Ms. Lauri Warfield

Words of Institution

Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 452

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM LORD

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 *Lenten Labyrinth* (2012), Mike Moyers. A painted labyrinth designed to lead the viewer on a visual journey into prayer and meditation. Imagery depicted in this labyrinth relate to the life, teachings, and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Begin your journey at the bottom, where there is black. Let your eyes and mind wander through the passageways filled with symbols to the center. Then, after a rest in the middle with your own thoughts & prayers, make your journey back out to the bottom where you began. May this prayer tool help you to better commune with God. <https://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/>

¹Words by Jacque B. Jones

²Words by Marty Haugen

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|---|
| Today, 3/13: | 9:30am | - Energetic, liturgical worship in the sanctuary
(labyrinth available for walking immediately following worship) |
| | 11am | - <i>Two Or More</i> scripture discussion group in the Gibbens room |
| | 6pm | - YouTube premiere of the 9:30am worship service |
| Mon., 3/14: | 7pm | - Lenten Study (on Zoom)
- YouTube premiere of <i>Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart</i> |
| Tue., 3/15: | 7:45am | - Devotional gathering for <i>The Upper Room</i> (on Zoom)* |
| | 5pm | - Outreach Committee meeting (on Zoom) |
| | 7pm | - Joanna Circle gathering (on Zoom) |
| Wed., 3/16: | 10am-2pm | - Labyrinth available |
| | 7pm | - YouTube premiere of theAlternative |

*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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