



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

## Worship of God

April 3, 2022, 9:30am: The Fifth 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

"And this is the strangest of all paradoxes of the human adventure; we live inside all experience, but we are permitted to bear witness only to the outside. Such is the riddle of life and the story of the passing of our days."

—Howard Thurman

Hymn of Praise 655

*Community of Christ*

LEONI

Invocation

Ms. Debbie Walker

Hymn of Prayer

*Speak, O Lord*<sup>1</sup>

SPEAK O LORD

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we long to hear your voice speak, but we're afraid of what you might say. We trust you to be all-loving, but are you also all-judging? Judgment makes us uncomfortable and for good reason. There are hymns about sinking down beneath your righteous frown and being saved from your wrath. We much prefer to think of your love and grace. But what if your judgment is an act of love and not punishment? What if your correction and discipline are not means of retribution but a way of leading us toward the future you want and ultimately will have? Forgive us, O God, for the ways in which we have sinned against you and neighbor. May your grace guide us anew until the whole wide earth is filled with your glory.**

Prayers of the People

Speak, O Lord...  
**And fill the earth with your glory.**

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.**

# 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.

Congregational Response

*Stay with Me<sup>2</sup>*

STAY WITH ME



Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.

Invitation to Stewardship

Rev. Russell

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

Offertory

Mr. Collins

Doxology 200

*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

Luke 13:18-21

Rev. Russell

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*It's a Both And Kingdom*

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Our minds like to categorize things into neatly labeled boxes. Am I right, or is she right? Let's stretch our minds so I can be right and so can she. Embracing the "and" is like yoga for the brain. When we train ourselves to hold paradoxes by stretching ourselves out of the boxes our minds create, we stretch into new possibilities and adapt more quickly in a fast-changing world."

—Henna Inam, *Wired for Authenticity*

Hymn of Communion 387

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

*Bread of the World, In Mercy Broken*

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Ms. Megan Rowe

Words of Institution

Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Russell

# Bring Forth the Kingdom



You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: Salt for the King-dom of God!  
You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: Light for the Cit - y of God!  
You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: Bring forth the King-dom of God!  
We are a blest and a pil - grim peo-ple: Bound for the King-dom of God!



Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!  
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King-dom of God!  
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the King-dom of God!  
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: Love is the King-dom of God!



Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, bring forth the King-dom of peace; bring forth the



King-dom of jus - tice, bring forth the Cit - y of God!

Hymn of Discipleship

Bring Forth the Kingdom<sup>3</sup>

BRING FORTH

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 *Vases with Faces*, an original acrylic painting by Megan Rowe. This is Megan's response to racism and injustice. Each vase and face is unique, representing many different races. Yet in the end, they are all the same, vases with faces, as we are all just human beings trying to live together in the same world.

<sup>1</sup>Words by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend; <sup>2</sup>Words by Reginald Heber; <sup>3</sup>Words by Marty Haugen

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Today, 4/3: 9:30am - Energetic, liturgical worship in the sanctuary  
Labyrinth available for walking immediately following worship  
Community Choir rehearsal immediately following worship
- 11am - *Two Or More* scripture discussion group in the Gibbens room
- 6pm - YouTube premiere of morning worship
- Mon., 4/4: 7pm - Lenten Study (on Zoom)  
- YouTube premiere of *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart*
- Tue., 4/5: 7:45am - Devotional gathering using *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)\*  
6-8pm - Labyrinth available (first Tuesday each month)
- Wed., 4/6: 10am-2pm - Labyrinth available (weekly)  
7pm - YouTube premiere of theAlternative
- Thu., 4/7: 8am-3pm - WACC hosts Elyria Catholic High School class retreat  
10am - Social Hour (on Zoom)\*\*

\*First-timers may register at [waccelyria.org](http://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 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.

WACC is a **Green Chalice Congregation** in covenant care of God's creation.



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