



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

## Worship of God

September 18, 2022, 9:30am: The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

The Spirit of God is with you!  
**And also with you!**

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

Report from the Board

Rev. Ron Dauphin

Call to Worship

Lift up your hearts...  
**We lift them to the Lord!**

Rev. Russell

Prelude

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

Mr. Evan Collins

Meditation for Preparation

“Sorrow prepares you for joy. It violently sweeps everything out of your house, so that new joy can find space to enter. It shakes the yellow leaves from the bough of your heart, so that fresh, green leaves can grow in their place. It pulls up the rotten roots, so that new roots hidden beneath have room to grow. Whatever sorrow shakes from your heart, far better things will take their place.”

–Rumi

Hymn of Praise

*Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

THE CALL

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath, such a  
 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast, such a  
 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move, such a

truth as ends all strife, such a life as kill - - - eth death.  
 feast as meds in length, such a strength as makes his guest.  
 love as none can part, such a heart as joys in love.

Invocation

Mr. Ken Oblak

Hymn of Prayer 354

*Seek Ye First*

SEEK YE FIRST

Prayers of the People

Creator who calls us to the Way...  
**Help us seek first your reign.**

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.**

Congregational Response 305

CHILDREN PRAYING

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Invitation to Stewardship

Ms. Lauri Warfield

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

Offertory

*Let Justice Roll like a River*

WACC Community Choir

Doxology 528

*Give Thanks*

GIVE THANKS

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's son. And now let the weak say "I am strong;" let the poor say, "I am rich," Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!**

The Reading

John 16:16-22

Rev. Russell

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*What Does This Mean?*

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Out of the huts of history's shame / I rise / Up from a past that's rooted in pain / I rise / I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide, / Welling and swelling I bear in the tide. / Leaving behind nights of terror and fear / I rise / Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear / I rise / Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, / I am the dream and the hope of the slave. / I rise / I rise / I rise."

–Maya Angelou, *Still I Rise*

Hymn of Communion 392

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNION SEMINARY

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Ms. Warfield

Words of Institution

Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Russell

## When the Darkness Overwhelms



When the dark-ness o-ver-whelms us to dim our sight and mind,  
When the fear of war's de-struct-ion par-a-lyz-es heart and breath,  
When in wea-ry i-so-la-tion we've lost our cour-age to care,  
When our sis-ters are in slav-ry, when our broth-ers are in need,  
Let the mount-ains ring with free-dom, let the val-leys sing with peace,



when all roads lead to con-fu-sion and hope's im-pos-s-ible to find,  
when our songs and laugh-ter van-ish in ter-ror of the sounds of death,  
when our cap-tive spir-its per-ish in the bon-dage of de-spair,  
when the cost is hu-man mis-'ry for the na-tions' pow'r and greed,  
let the riv-ers swell with jus-tice, let our u-ni-ty in-crease,



free our minds for dream-ing of a time when war shall ev-er cease,  
free our hearts for lov-ing this life so pre-cious and so dear,  
free our arms for ac-tion reach-ing for an-oth-er's hand,  
when the ties are bro-ken when we've lost our hu-man soul,  
may the sun's warm heal-ing and the o-cean's might-y roar



free our eyes for vi-sion that leads us to the ways of peace.  
free our voice for sing-ing the songs that o-ver-come our fear.  
free our feet for march-ing to move to bold-ly make a stand.  
free our lives for serv-ing to make the hu-man fam-ily whole.  
bring the day of jus-tice when peace shall reign for-ev-er more.

Hymn of Discipleship	<i>When the Darkness Overwhelms Us</i>	HOPE FOR PEACE
Benediction and Charge		Rev. Russell
Postlude	<i>Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life</i> And all the people said... <b>AMEN!</b>	Mr. Collins

We Go to Love and Serve from Our Doorsteps to the Ends of the Earth

Today's artwork is *I Am the Resurrection* (2016) by Mike Moyers.

#### EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Today, 9/18: 11am - *Two or More* scripture discussion group in the Gibbens rooms
- 6pm - YouTube premiere of morning worship
- Mon., 9/19: 7pm - YouTube premiere of Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart
- Tue., 9/20: 7:45am - Devotional gathering using *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)\*
- 3pm - Church Life & Growth Committee meeting (hybrid)
- 5pm - Outreach Committee meeting (on Zoom)
- Wed., 9/21: 7pm - YouTube premiere of theAlternative
- Thu., 9/22: 10am - Online Social Hour\*\*
- Sat., 9/24: 10am - Regional Assembly at Camp Christian

\*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 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.

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



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