



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

## Worship of God

November 27, 2022, 9:30am: The First Sunday of Advent

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

Ms. Linda Bohnert, Mr. John Bohnert and Mr. Evan Collins

Meditation for Preparation

“Advent is the Christian church’s season of waiting, watching, preparation, and readiness. During the weeks leading to Christmas, individuals and the whole church traditionally spend time in prayer, reflection, service, and worship, marking the passage of the season with candles, song, and scripture. Advent helps us prepare our hearts, homes, and spirits—opening a broad path and a clear response to the joyous heart of our faith: the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, at Christmas.”

—Vy Nguyen, *Be Ready: An Advent Devotional*

Hymn of Praise

God Almighty, We Are Waiting<sup>1</sup>

HOLY MANNA

God Al - might - y, we are wait - ing for a sav - ior to ap - pear.  
 God In - car - nate, we are wait - ing for the feast day of your birth.  
 God, the Spir - it, we are wait - ing for your pres - ence here and now.

Meet us in our des - ert jour - ney; give a sign that you are near:  
 Look - ing back and look - ing for - ward to the Christ's re - turn to earth.  
 Hum - bled by our sin - ful weak - ness, at your mer - cy we will bow.

burn - ing bush - es, part - ed wa - ters, food a - plen - ty in the wild.  
 Help us to pro - claim the gos - pel, till the world is rec - on - ciled,  
 Search our hearts and make us read - y, speak in lan - guage strong and mild,

As we look for signs and won - ders, help us see you in a child.  
 Let us set your ho - ly ta - ble for each re - ceive you as a man, and a child.  
 Help each one of us, your peo - ple, to re - ceive you as a man, and a child.

Invocation

Mr. Dan Clark

Hymn of Advent 128

One Candle Is Lit (v. 1)

CRADLE SONG

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Ms. & Mr. Bohnert and Mr. Collins

Hymn of Prayer 127

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME

Prayers of the People

Creator of the Stars of Night...  
Hear us when we call.

Congregational Response

*Wait for the Lord*

WAIT FOR THE LORD

**Wait for the Lord, his day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

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.**

Invitation to Stewardship

Ms. Jane Hutson

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

Offertory

Ms. & Mr. Bohnert and Mr. Collins

Doxology

*Doxology*

VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us and with all people dwell.**

The Reading

Matthew 24:32-44

Rev. Russell

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Be Ready: Hope*

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"The secret of seeing is, then, the pearl of great price. If I thought he could teach me to find it and keep it forever I would stagger barefoot across a hundred deserts after any lunatic at all. But although the pearl may be found, it may not be sought. The literature of illumination reveals this above all: although it comes to those who wait for it, it is always, even to the most practiced and adept, a gift and a total surprise."

—Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

Hymn of Communion 430

*Lo, I Am with You* (vv. 1-4)

PRESENCE

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Mr. Don Hange, Jr.

## God, You Alone Know What You've Planned



God, you a - lone know what you've planned for earth and sky and  
 O Christ, you and taught us, "Watch the trees as sea - sons change each  
 Though heav'n by your Spir - it pass may a - way, your the word will still be  
 So by your Spir - it may we share the life you're bring - ing



sea. Cre - a - tion waits your lov - ing hand to bring in what will  
 year, for when they bud and grow - new leaves you know that sum - mer's  
 true. O wo - man's son, on that great day, we'll be se - cure heal in the  
 forth: May we seek jus - tice, end de - spair and work to heal the



be. When things we trust in shift and shake and sor - rows mul - ti -  
 near. May we look round this chang - ing earth and see with faith - filled  
 you. For at the close of his - to - ry, when all that's past shall  
 earth. For there's a new day com - ing near with no more death or



ply, we hear you call - ing, "Keep a - wake! Re - demp - tion is close by!"  
 eyes your signs of new - ness, life and birth that wit - ness to the wise.  
 end, the one who judg - es us will be no stran - ger, but a friend.  
 pain; till then, we'll seek to serve you here and wel - come in your reign.

Words of Institution		Rev. Russell
Invitation to Discipleship		Rev. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship		CAROL
	<i>God, You Alone Know What You've Planned<sup>2</sup></i>	
Benediction and Charge		Rev. Russell
Postlude	<i>Creator of the Stars of Night And all the people said... <b>AMEN!</b></i>	Mr. Collins

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

Today's artwork is *Keep Awake* by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)  
<sup>1</sup>Words by Ann Bell Worley, 2005 <sup>2</sup>Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2009

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today, 11/27: 11am - Hanging of the Greens  
                   6pm - YouTube premiere of morning worship  
 Mon., 11/28: 7pm - YouTube premiere of Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart  
 Tue., 11/29: 7:45am - Devotional gathering using *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)\*  
                   4pm - Church Life & Growth Committee meeting (hybrid)  
 Wed., 11/30: 7pm - YouTube premiere of theAlternative  
 Thu., 12/1: 10am - Online Social Hour\*\*  
                   5pm - Stewardship Committee meeting (hybrid)  
                   7pm - Advent Study (on Zoom)\*\*\*  
 Sat., 12/3: 3pm - Evan Collins' senior organ recital at Lindsay-Crossman Chapel, Berea

\*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 chat

\*\*\*Register at [waccelyria.org/adventstudy/](http://waccelyria.org/adventstudy/)



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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