



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

Worship of God

December 18, 2022, 9:30am: The Fourth 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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Mr. Evan Collins

Meditation for Preparation

"Do not worship God—Inexorable God neither needs nor wants your worship. Instead, acknowledge and attend God, learn from God[.] With forethought and intelligence, imagination and industry, shape God. When you must, yield to God. Adapt and endure. For you are Earthseed, and God is change."

—Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Talents*

Hymn of Praise 135

Blessed Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

Invocation

Ms. Bonnie Jackson

Hymn of Advent 128

One Candle Is Lit (v. 4)

CRADLE SONG

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Ms. Megan & Mr. Marty Rowe

Hymn of Prayer 134

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

McGEE

Prayers of the People

God who is with all creation...
Reveal yourself to us.

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

Dr. Chad Vickers

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

Offertory

Savior of the Nations, Come

WACC Community Choir

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 1:18-25 Rev. Russell
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...
Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Be Ready: Love* Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"The prophet engages in futuring fantasy. The prophet does not ask if the vision can be implemented, for questions of implementation are of no consequence until the vision can be imagined. The *imagination* must come before the *implementation*. Our culture is competent to implement almost anything and to imagine almost nothing. The same royal consciousness that makes it possible to implement anything and everything is the one that shrinks imagination because imagination is a danger. Thus every totalitarian regime is frightened of the artist. It is the vocation of the prophet to keep alive the ministry of imagination, to keep on conjuring and proposing futures alternative to the single one the king wants to urge as the only thinkable one."

—Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*

Hymn of Communion 399 *O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near* BELMONT

Invitation to Commune Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table Ms. Janet Stevens-Brown

Words of Institution Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship Rev. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 142 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

Benediction and Charge Rev. Russell

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

Today's artwork is *Ordinary Glory* (2021), a digital painting by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Today, 12/18: 11am - Two or More scripture discussion group (Gibbens room)
 6pm - YouTube premiere of morning worship
- Mon., 12/19: 7pm - YouTube premiere of Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart
- Tue., 12/20: 7:45am - Devotional gathering using *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)*
 5pm - Outreach Committee meeting (on Zoom)
 7pm - Joanna Circle gathering (on Zoom)
- Wed., 12/21: 7pm - YouTube premiere of theAlternative
- Thu., 12/22: 7pm - Advent Study (on Zoom)**
- Sat., 12/24: 4:30pm - Children Worship & Wonder Christmas Eve service (in-person)
 7:30pm - Service of Carols and Celebration (in-person)
 11:30pm - theAlternative service (in-person)

*First-timers may register at waccelyria.org for these online, weekly devotional gatherings

**Register at waccelyria.org/adventstudy/



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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