



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

Worship of God

January 1, 2023, 9:30am: The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

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

Ms. Lauri Warfield

Call to Worship

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

Ms. Warfield

Meditation for Preparation

"The line between amazed and terrified is pretty thin. Especially when it comes to living into a new thing God is doing with us and through us, amazed and terrified usually go hand in hand."

—Caroline Hamilton Arnold, "Christmas Eve" *Be Ready: An Advent Devotional*

Hymn of Praise 546

*There Is a Line of Women*¹

CLIMBING VINE

There is a line of wom-en ex - tend - ing back to Eve whose role in shap - ing hist' - ry God
 There is a line of wom-en who took on pow'r - ful men, de - fy - ing laws and scru - ples to
 There is a line of wom-en who stood by Je - sus' side, who housed him while he mini - stered and
 on - ly could con - ceive; and though through end - less ag - es their wit - ness was re - pressed, God
 let life live a - gain; and though, de - spite their tri - umph, their sto - ries stayed un - told, God
 held him when he died; and though they claimed he'd ris - en, their news was deemed sus - pect
 till
 val - ued and in - spired them through whom the world was bless'd. So sing a song of Sa - rah to
 kept their num - ber grow - ing, cre - a - tive, strong, and bold. So sing a song of Shiph - rah with
 Je - sus stood a - mong them, his wo - man - ly e - lect. So sing a song of An - na who
 laugh - ter she gave birth; and sing a song of Ta - mar who stood for wo - men's worth; and sing a song of
 Pu - ah close at hand; en - gaged to kill male chil - dren, they foiled the king's com - mand; and sing a song of
 saw Christ's in - fant face; and sing a song of Mar - tha who gave him food and space; and sing of all the
 Han - nah who bar - gained with her Lord; and sing a song of Ma - ry who bore and bred God's word.
 Ra - hab who shel - tered spies and lied; and sing a song of Es - ther pre - vent - ing gen - o - cide.
 Ma - rys who heed - ed his re - quests and now at heav - en's ban - quet are Je - sus' fond - est guests.

Invocation

Ms. Debbie Walker

Hymn of Prayer 565

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You

Prayers of the People

Ms. Nancy Walker

God who inspires our trust...
Let us find your promise true to be.

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.

Congregational Response 317

Amen

AMEN

Invitation to Stewardship

Mr. Dan Clark

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

Offertory

Mr. Collins

Doxology

Doxology

LOBE DEN HERREN

O God of vision far greater than all human scheming, gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming. Show us anew life in your breath-taking view, lovely beyond all our dreaming.

The Reading

Esther 4:13-16

Mr. Don Hange, Jr.

For the Word of God in its promise and covenant... **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

For Just Such a Time as This

Mr. Hange, Jr.

Discipline of Silence

"...have you ever found God in church? I never did. I just found a bunch of folks hoping for him to show. Any God I ever felt in church I brought in with me. And I think all the other folks did too. They come to church to share God, not find God."

—Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*

Hymn of Communion 416

CONSOLATION

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

Invitation to Commune

Ms. Debby Willets

Prayer at the Table

Ms. Megan Doan

Words of Institution

Ms. Willets

Hymn of Discipleship

For Such a Time²

BELOVED OF GOD



For such a time, for such a day as this have we been called, to know our name, "be -
 In such a world, Lord, be our home, se - cure us by your grace, to rest in strength, to
 Be - loved of God, be - loved and blessed, what - ev - er strength we own be - longs not to our
 For such a time, for such a day have we been gath - ered here, to join for jus - tice



loved of God," and bear it to the world, and bear it to the world.
 live in love, be light in dark - est days, be light in dark - est days.
 might or pow'r but comes from God a - lone, but comes from God a - lone.
 in one voice, to wit - ness with - out fear, to wit - ness with - out fear.

Benediction and Charge

Ms. Jane Hutson

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 *Esther*, by Yael Harris Resnick, <https://yaelharrisresnick.com/>

¹Words by John L. Bell, 2002

²Words by David Wright, 1966

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Today, 1/1: 11am - Two or More scripture discussion group (Gibbens room)
- 6pm - YouTube premiere of morning worship
- Mon., 1/2: 7pm - YouTube premiere of Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart
- Tue., 1/3: 7:45am - Devotional gathering using *The Upper Room* (on Zoom)*
- Wed., 1/4: 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.

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



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