



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

Worship of God

July 9, 2023, 9:30am: The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

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

Ms. Glennis Covault

Call to Worship

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

Ms. Covault

Prelude

Silence May Be Kept

Mx. Sol Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

“Mercy requires nothing from the offender, but to ask forgiveness is to shift the balance of power in favor of the wounded. It requires you to become vulnerable to their denial. For a moment or perhaps many moments, the weight of your soul depends on the humanity of the one you sought to demean. *Will you forgive me? Please forgive me?* These are holy beginnings in pursuit of reconciliation.”

–Cole Arhtur Riley, *This Here Flesh*

Hymn of Praise

O Great and Sovereign God!

LEONI

O Great and Sov - 'reign God, we come to praise your name,
 God, how can we throw for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 The dares to of grace is the stone great; it damn an - oth - er's sin,
 yet we are bur - dened from the loads of guilt and shame.
 How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 Grace moves with jus - tice, mer - cy, truth to end all strife.
 Will you for - giv - ing be? Will you show li - ber - ty?
 When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live,
 A - maz - ing in its work; as - tound - ing in its goal.

Send forth com - pas - sion, kind - ness, love that sets us free.
 your love gives strength, be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we make for - give.
 Grace is the balm that heals our world and makes us - whole.

Invocation

Ms. Sheila Smith

Hymn of Prayer

In An Age of Twisted Values

EBENEZER

Prayers of the People

Cleansing and renewing God...
Hear our cry and heal our nation.

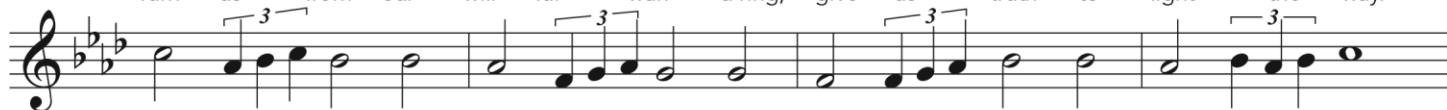
In an Age of Twisted Values



In an age of twist - ed val - ues we have lost the truth we need.
 We have built dis - crim - i - na - tion on our prej - u - dice and fear.
 When our fam - i - lies are bro - ken, when our homes are full of strife,
 We who hear your word so of - ten, choose so rare - ly to o - bey.



In so - phis - ti - cat - ed lan - guage we have jus - ti - fied our greed.
 Ha - tred swift - ly turns to cruel - ty if we hold re - sent - ments dear.
 when our chil - dren are be - wil - dered, when they lose their way in life,
 Turn us from our will - ful wan - d'ring; give us truth to light the way.



By our strug - gle for pos - ses - sions we have robbed the poor and weak.
 For com - mu - ni - ties di - vid - ed by the walls of class and race,
 when we fail to give the a - ged all the care we know they need,
 In the pow - er of your Spir - it come to cleanse us, make us new;



Hear our cry and heal our na - tion; your for - give - ness, Lord, we seek.
 hear our cry and heal our na - tion; show us, Lord, your love and peace.
 hear our cry and heal our na - tion; help us show more love, we plead.
 hear our cry and heal our nat - tion till our na - tion hon - ors you.

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.

Sung Response 306

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Invitation to Stewardship

Rev. Ron Dauphin

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

Offertory

Adagio

Mx. Rizzato

Doxology 4

Womb of Life and Source of Being

IN BABILONE

Mother, Brother, holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son: we would praise your name forever, one-in-three, and three-in-one. We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new, ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.

The Reading

Matthew 18:23-35

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Forgiving God

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"The closer we get to mass incarceration and extreme levels of punishment, the more I believe it's necessary to recognize that we all need mercy, we all need justice, and-perhaps-we all need some measure of unmerited grace."

–Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*

Hymn of Communion 408

Come, Share the Lord

DIVERNON

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Mr. Gerald Western

Words of Institution

Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship		Rev. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 668	<i>For the Healing of the Nations</i>	CWM RHONDDA
Benediction and Charge		Rev. Russell
Postlude	<i>The people respond – Amen! And all the people said... AMEN!</i>	Mx. Rizzato

¹Hymn lyrics by NAR (vv. 1, 4, 2023) and Ruth Duck (vv. 2, 3, 1994)

²Hymn lyrics by Martin E. Leckebusch, 1995

Today's artwork is *Forgiveness* by Sofiya Inger. <https://www.sofiyaingerart.com/2013/02/13/forgiveness/>

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 9	11:00am: Two or More: Scripture Discussion Group (Gibbens Room)
	6:00pm: YouTube premiere of morning worship
Tuesday, July 11	7:30am: Upper Room Devotional Gathering (Zoom)
Thursday, July 13	10:00am: All-Church Social Hour (Zoom)



We are thrilled that you are worshiping God with us! Scan this QR code to register your attendance, submit a prayer request, and make a contribution.

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

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