



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

Worship of God

July 16, 2023, 9:30am: The Seventh 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

O Gott, du frommer Gott

Mx. Sol Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

“Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house... God is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But... God starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense... The explanation is that God is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Hymn of Praise 669

O Young and Fearless Prophet

LLANGLOFFAN

Invocation

Ms. Mary Siwierka

Hymn of Prayer

*The Summons*¹

KELVINGROVE

Prayers of the People

God, who calls us by name...

Help us to reshape the world around.

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 593

Lead Me, Lord

LEAD ME LORD

Invitation to Stewardship

Ms. Debby Willets

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

Offertory

Don't Be Weary, Traveler

Mx. Rizzato

Doxology 606

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

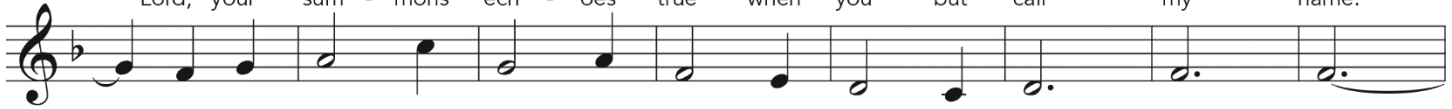
NETTLETON

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

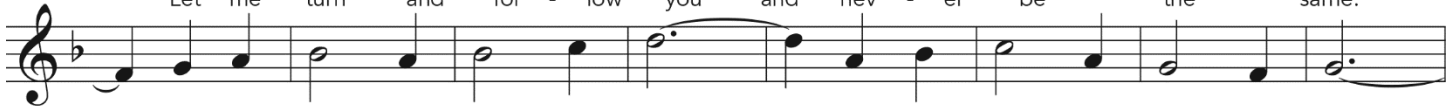
The Summons



Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
 Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The Reading

Matthew 19:16-30

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Gift of the Unexpected

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"I really feel strongly about the fact that the kingdom of heaven is not some far-off place, but it's something that is begun here and now. I believe the only way it can be achieved is if we go against the grain that says we must be just like everybody else, and instead seek God and ask God for direction to be whatever God is calling us to be. Sometimes God calls us to be something unexpected."

—Lawrence Richardson, quoted in *Transforming* by Austen Hartke

Hymn of Communion

Who Will Speak a Word of Warning?

GREENCASTLE

Who will speak a word of warn - ing to a world whose wealth ex - pands,
 Who will speak a word of wis - dom to a world where truth gives way,
 Who will speak a word of wel - come to the great - est and the least,

as the grow - ing wealth is gath - ered in - to ev - er few - er hands?
 as the claims of pow'r and priv - 'lege shift and shape the truth each day?
 call - ing those with pow'r to ser - vice, call - ing all to share the feast?

Christ, you speak a word of warn - ing for the church to know and tell:
 Christ, you speak a word of wis - dom for the church to heed and share:
 Christ, you speak a word of wel - come for the church to tell and live:

greed is death and life is giv - ing; hands that give re - ceive as well.
 truth is not the claims of pow - er! Truth is hurt and hope and prayer.
 all who hun - ger, come, be seat - ed; take what Christ is here to give.

Invitation to Commune

Rev. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Mr. Abe Reshad

Words of Institution

Rev. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship		Rev. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 680	<i>O God of Every Nation</i>	NYLAND
Benediction and Charge		Rev. Russell
Postlude	<i>Nimrod</i> (from <i>Enigma Variations</i>) And all the people said... AMEN!	Mx. Rizzato

¹Hymn lyrics by John L. Bell, 1987.

²Hymn lyrics by Richard Leach, 2000.

Today's artwork is Meeting with the *Rich Young Ruler* by Frank Wesley http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 16	11:00am: Two or More: Scripture Discussion Group (Gibbens Room)
	6:00pm: YouTube premiere of morning worship
Tuesday, July 18	7:30am: Upper Room Devotional Gathering (Zoom)
Wednesday, July 19	11am-2pm: Labyrinth open
Thursday, July 20	4:30pm: Third Thursdays (Ely Square)



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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waccelyria.org ♦ 440.323.4213 ♦ 301 Washington Ave; Elyria OH 44035

