



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

## Worship of God

July 23, 2023, 9:30am: The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

## Dawn Prelude

Mr. Jason Falkofsky

## Meditation for Preparation

"You don't necessarily *have* to do anything once you acknowledge your privilege... You could, however, use that privilege for the greater good—to try to level the playing field for everyone, to work for social justice, to bring attention to how those without certain privileges are disenfranchised. While you don't have to do anything with your privilege, perhaps it should be an imperative of privilege to share the benefits of that privilege rather than hoard your good fortune."

—Roxanne Gay, *Peculiar Benefits*

## Hymn of Praise

Bless the Lord with Soul and Being<sup>1</sup>

RUSTINGTON

Bless the Lord with soul and be - ing! Lord, our God, you have such might.  
 Lord, you laid the earth's foun - da - tion that plants it would us be al - ways sound.  
 Grass you cause to grow all your work - ings; wis - dom marks them through and through.  
 Lord, how great are your glo - ry reign for - ev - er. Lord, re - joyce in all you make!

Cloaked with hon - or, grand and glo - rious, you are clothed with pur - est light.  
 By the word of your com - mand - ing, you set forth each o - cean's bound.  
 Food you bring forth from our la - bor, wine for joy and bread for plate.  
 All the earth is from your pos - ses - sion; great and small be - long to you.  
 As you look on your cre - a - tion, moun - tains smoke, foun - da - tions shake.

Stretch - ing out the heav'ns like tent cloth, you are cham - bered on the deep.  
 Springs gush forth at your own bid - ding, you giv - ing drink to ev - every field.  
 Trees you give life the birds for shel - ter, moun - tain rock and cave for beast.  
 Food you give words in each due ate sea - son; at your hand come and good things.  
 May these words and thoughts be pleas - ing, for in you our joy is found.

Rid - ing on the wings of wind - storm, flame and fire your bid - ding keep.  
 Bird and beast and all mark you the cre - a - tures in that their cool - ness find thirst healed.  
 Sun and moon both Spir - it soul and ate sea - sons; in Lord, in their light we re - work new - al feast.  
 By your Lord, with soul and be - ing! With this song let praise a - bound.

## Invocation

Dr. Chad Vickers

## Hymn of Prayer 535

## Faith, While Trees are Still in Blossom

KINGDOM

Prayers of the People

Faithful God...

**Grant us the faith to accept your call.**

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 526

*The Gift of Love*

GIFT OF LOVE

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.**

Invitation to Stewardship

Mr. Dan Clark

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

Offertory

*Afternoon Prelude*

Mr. Falkofsky

Doxology

*For the Life That You Have Given*

PLEADING SAVIOR

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known, with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own: here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

The Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

Rev. Russell

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Equality Achieved*

Rev. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"If we cite the Bible, and yet fail to live according to its codes, the Bible becomes just another book. But when we live it, it becomes powerful. If you believe it, the words of scripture say that we become living epistles in whose life others read the presence of God."

—Michael Eric Dyson, *Tears We Cannot Stop*

Hymn of Communion 417

*We Place upon Your Table, Lord*

WINCHESTER NEW

Invitation to Commune		Rev. Russell
Prayer at the Table		Ms. Megan Doan
Words of Institution		Rev. Russell
Invitation to Discipleship		Rev. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 357	<i>We Call Ourselves Disciples</i>	LANCASHIRE
Benediction and Charge		Rev. Russell
Postlude	<i>Now the Day is Over</i> And all the people said... <b>AMEN!</b>	Mr. Falkofsky

<sup>1</sup>Hymn lyrics by Fred R. Anderson, 1986.

Today's artwork is *The Red Vineyards near Arles* (1888) by Vincent Van Gogh. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Red\\_Vineyard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Red_Vineyard)

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EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 23	11:00am: Two or More: Scripture Discussion Group (Gibbens Room)
	6:00pm: YouTube premiere of morning worship
Monday, July 24	6:00pm: Director of Worship & the Arts Search Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 25	7:30am: Upper Room Devotional Gathering (Zoom)
	8:00pm: Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, July 27	10:00am All-Church Social Hour (Zoom)
	6:00pm: Director of Worship & the Arts Search Committee Meeting



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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