



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

Worship of God

September 3, 2023, 9:30am: The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

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

Glennis Covault

Call to Worship

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

Glennis Covault

Prelude

Christa Rakich

Meditation for Preparation

"Why then does he counsel these already humiliated people to turn the other cheek? Because this action robs the oppressor of the power to humiliate. The person who turns the other cheek is saying, in effect, "Try again. Your first blow failed to achieve its intended effect. I deny you the power to humiliate me. I am a human being just like you. Your status does not alter that fact. You cannot demean me."

—Walter Wink, *Jesus and Nonviolence*

Hymn of Praise 688

When, in Awe of God's Creation

HYFRYDOL

Invocation

Debbie Walker

Hymn of Prayer

Gentle God, When We Are Driven

IRBY



Gen - tle God, when we are driv - en past the lim - its of our love,
Gen - tle Spir - it, when our rea - son clouds in an - ger, twists in fear,
In the mir - ror of earth's mad - ness let us see our rav - aged face,
Let our strength be in for - giv - ing as for - giv - en we must be,



when our hurt would have a weap - on and the hawk de - stroy the dove,
when we strike in - stead of strok - ing, when we bruise and sting and smear,
in the tur - moil of all peo - ple let com - pas - sion find a place,
one to one in cost - ly lov - ing, find - ing trust and grow - ing free,



at the our cost of seem - ing weak, help us turn the oth - er cheek.
cool the our burn - ing, take our pain, bring us to our - selves a - gain.
touch our hearts to make a - mends, see our en - e - mies as friends.
gen - tle God, be our re - lease, gen - tle Spir - it, teach us peace.

Prayers of the People

Gentle God...

Bring us to ourselves again.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Mother/Father/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin*dom 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 kin*dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

Sung Response 245 *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* BRIDEGROOM
With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer, with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare: come, Holy Spirit, come.

Invitation to Stewardship Janet Stevens-Brown

Offertory Christa Rakich

Doxology *For the Music of Creation* RUSTINGTON
All the voices of the ages in transcendent chorus meet, worship lifting up the senses, hands that praise, and dancing feet; over discord and division music speaks your joy and peace, harmony of earth and heaven, song of God that cannot cease!

The Reading Matthew 5:38-42 Nathan A. Russell
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...
Thanks be to God.

Sermon *The Last Five Years* Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"It was dignity I wanted to make an appeal for—the idea that as a nation we might hold on to the core thing that had sustained my family, going back generations. Dignity had always gotten us through. It was a choice, and not always the easy one, but the people I respected most in life made it again and again, every single day. There was a motto Barack and I tried to live by, and I offered it that night from the stage: *When they go low, we go high.*"
—Michele Obama, *Becoming*

Hymn of Communion 420 *I Come with Joy* DOVE OF PEACE

Invitation to Commune Nathan A. Russell

Prayer at the Table Nancy Walker

Words of Institution Nathan A. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship *Strong, Peaceful One of Galilee* MELITA

Strong, peace - ful one of Gal - i - lee, robed with your strength we long to be - not
 Strong, right - eous one of Gal - i - lee, dressed with your peace we long to be - in
 Strong, suf - f'ring one of Gal - i - lee, clad in your grace we hope to be - love
 God's peace - ful one of Gal - i - lee, Love's tri - umph, we at last will see - to

to re - venge; to heal and pray, to turn the cheek, and trib - ute pay. Robed
 tem - ple court, your cleans - ing rod; on greed and lies, and the wrath of God. Dressed
 at the well, share Mar - tha's loss, for - give the nails, and take the cross. Clad
 crum - ble ev - 'ry bound - 'ry wall, build high - ways to the hearts of all. Love's

with your strength we long to be, strong, peace - ful one of Gal - i - lee.
 with your peace we long to be, strong, right - eous one of Gal - i - lee.
 in your grace we hope to be, strong, suf - f'ring one of Gal - i - lee.
 tri - umph, we at last will see, God's peace - ful one of Gal - i - lee.

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Christa Rakich

And all the people said...
AMEN!

¹Lyrics by Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

²Lyrics by Harry W. Farrington, 1921 Today's artwork is *Journey with Jesus* by He Qi

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sunday, September 3 11:00am: Two or More: Scripture Discussion Group (Gibbens Room)
- 6:00pm: YouTube premiere of morning worship
- Tuesday, September 5 7:30am Upper Room Devotional Gathering (Zoom)
- 3:00pm: Worship Committee Meeting (Hybrid)
- 4:15pm: Permanent Funds Trustees Meeting (Zoom)
- 5:00pm: Stewardship Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- Wednesday, Sept. 6 10:00am: Sabbatical Planning Committee Meeting
- Thursday, September 7 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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