



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

Worship of God

September 10, 2023, 9:30am: The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

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

Nathan A. Russell

Call to Worship

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

Nathan A. Russell

Prelude

Christa Rakich

Meditation for Preparation

“The questions little children ask drive you insane because they never stop. But they also make you think.”

–Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower*

Hymn of Praise 517

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

Invocation

Polly Simmons

Hymn of Prayer

God Is Still Speaking¹

BRANDON

God is still speak - ing when chil - dren beg for bread, roam - ing through
 God is still speak - ing when ex - iles cry in pain, forced from their
 God is still speak - ing when peo - ple pray for peace, see - ing, through

cit - y streets, their in - no - cence long dead. How can we close our eyes, com -
 home - lands or en - slaved for oth - ers' gain. How can we leave them to end -
 eyes of faith, the day when war will cease. How can we cling to hate as

pla - cent in our greed? God, move our hearts of stone to serve a world in need.
 dure the wounds of hate? God, use our bro - ken hearts, a new world to cre - ate.
 God's name we con - fess? God, let our hearts be changed by love, the world to bless.

Prayers of the People

Still-speaking God,
Let our hearts be changed by love.

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 305

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

CHILDREN PRAYING

Invitation to Stewardship

Debbie Walker

Offertory

Christa Rakich

Doxology 288

O God of Vision

LOBE DEN HERREN

Break the sun's rays into color, a rainbow around us. Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough to confound us. Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high, giving us hope to astound us.

The Reading

Matthew 18:1-7

Nathan A. Russell

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

All the Children of the World

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"When God is a child, there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid."

—Brian Wren, *When God Is a Child*

Hymn of Communion

As We Gather at Your Table²

BEACH SPRING

As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O to God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred
 send us forth to Love and will serve you; bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been there last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride as our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Invitation to Commune	Nathan A. Russell
Prayer at the Table	Abe Reshad
Words of Institution	Nathan A. Russell
Invitation to Discipleship	Nathan A. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 651	<i>God, Who Stretch the Spangled Heavens</i> HOLY MANNA
Benediction and Charge	Nathan A. Russell
Postlude	Christa Rakich

And all the people said...
AMEN!

¹Lyrics by Barbara Hamm, 2004.

²Lyrics by Carl P. Daw, Jr. 1989

Today's artwork is *Jesus welcomes the children* (1973). JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings. This dramatic painting is full of joy—calling the viewer to be happy alongside the children running to Jesus. Imagine choosing a life of humility, one that recognizes the value in others and fully celebrates the beautiful differences and similarities we share as humans. Imagine a world where the weakest and most vulnerable are not rejected but protected, heard, and valued. Let us be like the children in this painting—eager to hear Jesus and accept his blessings. Let us be like Jesus, accepting the vulnerable into our hearts and lives.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 10	11:00am	Brian McLaren Video viewing in the (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00pm	YouTube premiere of morning worship
Monday, September 11	7:00pm	<i>Do I Stay Christian</i> Book Study Group (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday, September 12	7:30am	Upper Room Devotional Gathering (Zoom)
	5:30pm	Elders' Meeting (Hybrid)
	7:00pm	Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Thursday, September 14	7:00pm	Creation Care Team Meeting in the Fellowship Hall



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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