



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

## Worship of God

September 17, 2023, 9:30am: The Sixteenth 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

Rees Taylor Roberts

## Meditation for Preparation

"What's at stake for Jesus in this situation isn't just that one single lost sheep, and it's not just the ninety-nine back home. It's the integrity of the flock as a whole. Saving just the main group or just the individual wouldn't do any good, because the flock is more than just the sum of its parts. When Jesus goes after that lost sheep, what he's telling the flock—what he's telling us—is that, as a community, we need each other to be complete."

—Austen Harte, *TRANSforming*

## Hymn of Praise

### God, We Gather as Your People<sup>1</sup>

LOHMAN



God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a - bove, and we dare to claim the  
Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be free; and we sing for gen - er -  
Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame, so a - fraid of who they  
God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and wide can live their lives with



prom - ise of your love. Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will  
a - tions yet to be. that they nev - er have a rea - son to doubt that they are  
are and who they love. May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your love is for the  
dig - ni - ty and pride. As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they join us hand in



be, when your chil - dren will be free. Oh, may our hearts and minds be  
blest. May they, in your love, find rest.  
few; may their faith in you re - new.  
hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - ery - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be - long. May that wel - come be our song.

## Invocation

Nancy Walker

## Hymn of Prayer 487

### Help Us Accept Each Other

ACCEPTANCE

## Prayers of the People

### Embracing God... Give us new eyes for seeing.

## 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 583

### Lead Me, Guide Me

LEAD ME GUIDE ME

## Invitation to Stewardship

Lauri Warfield

## Offertory

### Let Me Get Lost

Nathan A. Russell

Doxology

*Praise with Joy the World's Creator*

LAUDA ANIMA

**Praise to the Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, finds the lost, heals the sick, upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost. Celebrate Christ's constant presence – Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.**

The Reading

Matthew 18:10-14

Nathan A. Russell

For the Word of God in its promise and covenant... **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*"Lost?" and Found*

Nathan A. Russell & Sol Rizzato

Discipline of Silence

"When a church is trans-affirming, transgender Christians can show up as themselves, unapologetically. By doing that, they show everyone else in the congregation that it's all right to bring their whole selves into the community, that nobody has to "fake it 'til you make it" as a perfect Christian. This kind of authenticity is especially important to younger people, who often see the church as hypocritical and believe that being a churchgoing Christian means that you put on your fake smile alongside your Sunday suit."

–Austen Harte, *TRANSforming*

Hymn of Communion 284

*Gather Us In*

GATHER US IN

Invitation to Commune

Nathan A. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Lauri Warfield

Words of Institution

Nathan A. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship

*Mighty God Who Called Creation<sup>2</sup>*

WEISSE FLAGGEN

Might - y God who called cre - a - tion from the un - formed womb of space,  
 As we wor - ship, may your Spir - it breathe through us the pow'r of prayer,  
 Root - ed in the love of Je - sus, nour - ished by his flesh and blood,  
 Keep us faith - ful, joy - ful, lov - ing, filled with hope through grief and pain,

new - born worlds of gleam - ing glo - ry, fresh with hope and ripe with grace:  
 words of life for dai - ly liv - ing, strength to do and faith to dare.  
 may we prove a fruit - ful vine - yard joined in mut - ual serv - ant - hood.  
 know - ing that the One who made us has re - deemed and will sus - tain:

speak a - gain with power and prom - ise when the storms of fear in - crease;  
 Come, en - flame us, Ho - ly Spir - it, like the church at Pen - te - cost;  
 Work through us, O ris - en Sav - ior, to reap peace from fields of strife;  
 Tri - une God, of bound - less glo - ry, yet in hu - man form made known,

to our cha - os and con - fu - sion let your light and truth bring peace.  
 help us bear the light of bless - ing to the least, the last, the lost.  
 bring our bar - ren wastes to blos - som; lead us out of death to life.  
 raise us up to be a peo - ple called by love to be your own.

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Rees Taylor Roberts

And all the people said...  
**AMEN!**

<sup>1</sup>Lyrics by David Lohman, 2007

<sup>2</sup>Lyrics by Carl P. Daw, 1996

Today's artwork is *Transgender Lamb Her/Them Digital Cartoon* by David Hayward © nakedpastor.com

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### EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 17	11:00am	Two or More: Scripture Discussion Group (Gibbens Room)
	6:00pm	YouTube premiere of morning worship
Monday, September 18	7:00pm	<i>Do I Stay Christian</i> Book Study Group (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday, September 19	7:30am:	Upper Room Social (Zoom)
	5:00pm:	Outreach Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, Sept. 20	11am-2pm:	Labyrinth Open (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday, September 21	10:30am:	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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