



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

Worship of God

October 1, 2023, 9:30am: The Eighteenth 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

Sol Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"Our interpretations reveal less about God or the Bible than they do about ourselves. They reveal what we want to defend, what we want to attack, what we want to ignore, what we're unwilling to question."

—Brian D. McLaren, *A New Kind of Christian*

Hymn of Praise

*Alchemy of Healing*¹

ST. DENIO

The cour - age we bor - row, the cour - age we bring shall bind us in
 Bring grace and bring kind - ness to all that you sing, to heal and to
 The dark - ness we ban - ish, the sha - dow we blame though hid - den, may
 Come ga - ther our pow - er with good friends a - round. To - geth - er we

strength to the heal - ing we sing. The cour - age to face an - y
 hon - or each fierce ten - der thing. Each shame left un - spo - ken may
 help us to find our true name. So let us bring cour - age that
 stand in the truth of this ground. Our cour - age can make us, can

wound that we fear shall bind us in beau - ty and bless ev - 'ry tear.
 yet shine a light, a place that seemed bro - ken, that place can give life.
 all be made whole, trans - form - ing our sto - ry in bo - dy and soul.
 strength - en and mend, our wounds can be sa - cred, our wounds we tran - scend.

Invocation

Debbie Walker

Hymn of Prayer 497

In Loving Partnership

PARTNERSHIP

Prayers of the People

God, our Friend and Partner...
Let justice and peace be our desire.

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 306

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Invitation to Stewardship

Don Hange, Jr.

Offertory

Sol Rizzato

Doxology

*Doxology*²

FOUNDATION

All honor we give you, O help us to see, your children are worthy to claim victory. And so let our actions flow out of our praise, to seek transformation, you kin*dom to raise.

The Reading

2 Samuel 11:2-15

Nathan A. Russell

For the words of scripture that are difficult to hear and honor...
Be with us, God, in our discomfort.

Discipline of Silence

“God save me from the day when stories of violence, rape, and ethnic cleansing inspire within me anything other than revulsion. I don’t want to become a person who is unbothered by these texts, and if Jesus is who he says he is, then I don’t think he wants me to be either. There are parts of the Bible that inspire, parts that perplex, and parts that leave you with an open wound. I’m still wrestling, and like Jacob, I will wrestle until I am blessed. God hasn’t let go of me yet.”

–Rachel Held Evans, *Inspired*

Hymn of Communion 410

Now We Come Before God’s Presence

ST. PAUL’S

Invitation to Commune

Nathan A. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Steve Mayer

Words of Institution

Nathan A. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship

How Many Times We Start Again³

GRACE COVENANT

How man - y times we start a - gain on faith's un - wind - ing way: we
 Be - fore we go, we look a - round, sur - vey - ing where we are. Some
 But great - er than the cost we find is our ex - pand - ed view of
 With ea - ger hope we now de - part the plac - es that we know to

want, O Lord, to set - tle in, to build a home and stay, but
 ask, why leave fa - mil - iar ground for some - where strange and far? We
 what it means with heart and mind heart to trust and fol - low you: we
 trav - el re - gions in your heart where you would have us go. In

then know a dream, a voice, a light dis - turbs our peace and rest and
 hear from all our start - ings out each jour - ney has its cost: that
 you we live and move and dwell. As close as breath and prayer, and you

sets be - fore our strain - ing sight new stag - es on our quest.
 some - times faith gives way to doubt, and some - times we get lost.
 meet - ing stran - gers we are stirred to God - wel - come them as friends.
 are our home: Em - man - u - el, God - with - us ev - ery - where.

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Sol Rizzato

And all the people said...
AMEN!

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 1	11:00am	Two or More: Scripture Discussion Group (Gibbens Room)
	6:00pm	YouTube premiere of morning worship
Monday, October 2	3:00pm:	Worship Committee Meeting (Hybrid)
	7:00pm:	<i>Do I Stay Christian</i> Book Study Group (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday, October 3	7:30am:	Upper Room Social (Zoom)
	7:00pm:	Glennis Covault Dream Team (Zoom)
Wednesday, October 4	10:00am:	Sabbatical Planning Committee (Hybrid)
Thursday, October 5	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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