



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

## Worship of God

October 8, 2023, 9:30am: The Nineteenth 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

Sol Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"Perhaps all the dragons in our lives are princesses who are only waiting to see us act, just once, with beauty and courage. Perhaps everything that frightens us is, in its deepest essence, something helpless that wants our love."

—Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters to a Young Poet*



Who is this Je - sus, whose voice we have heard, whose ac - tions re -  
 Who is this Je - sus, whose light we have seen, whose shin - ing in -  
 Who is this Je - sus, whose love we have known, whose hun - ger and  
 Je - sus is hu - man, our flesh and our blood, but al - so the



veal and il - lu - mine God's word, whose sto - ries sur - pris - ing new  
 splen - dor turns bar - mine earth green, whose ris - ing in glo - ry pre -  
 pain were as real as our own, whose pow'r and com - pas - sion are -  
 im - age and full - ness of God. This Je - sus is Christ and on



in - sights im - part, whose gos - pel is joy for the hum - ble of heart?  
 vails o - ver death, whose Spir - it is wis - dom gives beau - ty and breath?  
 with us to heal, whose life in a - bun - dance we share in this meal?  
 him we de - pend, our sol - id - rock cen - ter, be - gin - ning, and end.

Invocation

Pam Sheetz

Hymn of Prayer

Come and Bring Light<sup>2</sup>

OPEN OUR EYES



Come and bring light to a peo - ple in dark - ness. Come, set us free from the chains we have



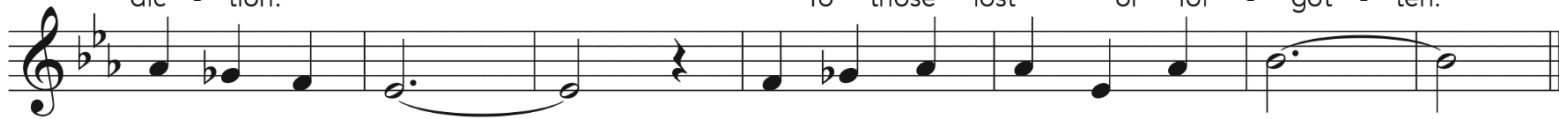
made. We are your peo - ple, the flock that you tend. Lord, o - pen our eyes once a - gain.



To the ones bro - ken - heart - ed: To the plight of the  
 To the vic - tims of vio - lence: To the ones who seek  
 When a col - or di - vides us: o - pen our eyes. When the dark - ness sur -  
 To those full of life's sor - row: To the needs of the  
 To those suf - fer - ing ill - ness: To those trapped by ad -



poor: To the in - no - cent chil - dren:  
 jus - tice: To those sit - ting in pris - on:  
 rounds us: o - pen our eyes. When we choose to look else - where:  
 low - ly: To the ones who seek peace:  
 dic - tion: To those lost or for - got - ten:



o - pen our eyes. Teach us com - pas - sion and love.

Prayers of the People

God of compassion and love...

**Open our eyes.**

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

*Open Our Eyes, Lord<sup>B</sup>*

OPEN OUR EYES LORD

O - pen our eyes,  
O - pen our ears,  
Lord,  
Lord,  
we want to see Je - sus,  
and help us to lis - ten,  
to  
reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.  
O - pen our eyes,  
2.  
Lord,  
we want to see Je - sus.

Invitation to Stewardship

Debby Willets

Offertory

Sol Rizzato

Doxology

*Doxology<sup>A</sup>*

DIADEMATA

**Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain, who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane. God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; and deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.**

The Reading

Matthew 25:31-46

Nathan A. Russell

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

*Seeing Jesus*

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Stories, no matter how simple, can be vehicles of truth; can be, in fact, icons. It's no coincidence that Jesus taught almost entirely by telling stories, simple stories dealing with the stuff of life familiar to the Jews of his day. Stories are able to help us to become more whole, to become Named. And Naming is one of the impulses behind all art; to give a name to the cosmos we see despite all the chaos."

—Madeleine L'Engle, *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art*

Hymn of Communion 397

*Come, Risen Lord*

HOLBORN

Invitation to Commune

Nathan A. Russell

Prayer at the Table		Debby Willets
Words of Institution		Nathan A. Russell
Invitation to Discipleship		Nathan A. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 655	<i>Community of Christ</i>	LEONI
Benediction and Charge		Nathan A. Russell
Postlude		Sol Rizzato
And all the people said...		
<b>AMEN!</b>		

<sup>1</sup>Lyrics by Delores Dufner, OSB, 2011.

<sup>2</sup>Lyrics by Kevin Keil, 1998.

<sup>3</sup>Lyrics by Robert Cull, 1976.

<sup>4</sup>Lyrics by Curtis Beach, 1966.

Today's artwork is Moses (Acrylic painting, 1983) by John August Swanson. <https://johnaugustswanson.com/>

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### EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 8	11:00am	Two or More: Scripture Discussion Group (Gibbens Room)
	6:00pm	YouTube premiere of morning worship
Tuesday, October 10	7:30am:	Upper Room Devotional Gathering (Zoom)
	5:30pm:	Elders' Meeting (Hybrid)
	7:00pm:	Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Wednesday, October 11	10:00am:	Building in use by Elyria Catholic High School



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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