



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

Worship of God

October 15, 2023, 9:30am: The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

Glennis Covault

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

Call to Worship

Glennis Covault

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

Prelude

Little Piece for Organ

Jason Falkofsky

Meditation for Preparation

"The more I strive to deepen my understanding, to widen my view rather than narrow it, the more beautiful and powerful it becomes. I stand in total awe of that power, and my prayers grow less and less about favors from a super-being, and more and more about being utterly absorbed in its eternity."

– Fredrick Bahr, *Credo: Reflections in a Quiet Mind*

Hymn of Praise 276

We Gather Together

KREMSER

Invocation

Bob Maxwell

Hymn of Prayer

Today We Are Called to Be Disciples<sup>1</sup>

KINGSFOLD

To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord,  
 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man race  
 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y stream,  
 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing word,

to help to set the cap - tive free, make plow - share out of sword,  
 to live as stew - ards of the earth, re - spond - ing to God's grace.  
 with right - eous - ness in the field and town to till cleanse us and re - deem.  
 and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.

to feed the hun - gry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
 But we are vain and sad - ly proud; we sow not peace but strife.  
 For God is long - ing the to re - store we an give earth where con - flicts cease,  
 As stew - ards of the earth may we give thanks in one ac - cord

to serve the poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.  
 Our dis - cord spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.  
 a world that was cre - at - ed for a dis - har - mo - ny of peace.  
 to God who calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

Prayers of the People

Nancy Walker

God who calls us to be disciples...  
May your justice come rolling down.

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 523

*Live in Charity*

UBI CARITAS

Invitation to Stewardship

Gerald Western

Offertory

*Arioso*

Jason Falkofsky

Doxology

*Jesus Shall Reign<sup>2</sup>*

DUKE STREET

Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring trib - utes of praise for all to sing;  
An - gels de - scend with songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

The Reading

Matthew 13:54-58  
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...  
**Thanks be to God!**

Sol Rizzato

Sermon

*It Is Right and Just*

Sol Rizzato

Discipline of Silence

"And for some of us . . . well, it's like Moses. Even if we didn't want to follow, we had no choice. The call in our souls is just that loud. I'm listening to the call of God in my life, and I'm going to follow that call wherever it leads me, even if that leads me to death, and that's not a message that mainstream society can take."

– Lawrence Richardson, *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* (Austen Hartke)

Hymn of Communion 392

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNION SEMINARY

Invitation to Commune

Nancy Walker

Prayer at the Table

Gerald Western

Words of Institution

Nancy Walker

Invitation to Discipleship

Gerald Western

Hymn of Discipleship 463

*Renew Your Church*

ALL IS WELL

Benediction and Charge

Gerald Western

Postlude

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

Jason Falkofsky

Today's artwork is *Spirit Led* (2020) by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

I depicted Jesus divided, containing in his divinity all the stars and galaxies of the universe on the left, and the layered dust of his humanity on the right. For me, this text highlights the tension held within Jesus' identity, particularly through the tempter's efforts to lead Jesus toward his human nature while betraying his divinity. If Jesus were to succumb to the tempter's requests, he would have access to the unlimited power, influence, and riches the world has to offer, which are referenced by the stacked, columned structures on the right side of the image. If Jesus chooses to resist the temptations and stay planted in the wilderness, honoring his divinity and call, he chooses the wilderness path—one that would ultimately lead to his demise.

Jesus' ministry is defined by this standoff with the tempter. He is asked to turn stones into bread; instead he goes on to share meals with those deemed unworthy, and miraculously shares two loaves of bread with five thousand people. He is asked to stand on the pinnacle of the church and enlist the help of angels; instead he goes on to turn over tables protesting the temple's entanglement with capitalism and greed. He is asked to take his place as earthly ruler over all; instead he will take the shape of a servant, dying a state-sanctioned death.

Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness immediately after being baptized. The wilderness has something to offer Jesus, and instead of taking a detour around it, he chooses to encounter its lessons. When we find ourselves in the wilderness places of life, may we take an open, curious posture, ready to be challenged, shaped, and sent.

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### EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 15	11:00am	Two or More: Scripture Discussion Group (Gibbens Room)
	6:00pm	YouTube premiere of morning worship
Tuesday, October 17	7:30am:	Upper Room Devotional Gathering (Zoom)
	4:00pm:	Outreach Committee (Zoom)
Thursday, October 19	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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