

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

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 Disciples¹

KINGSFOLD



Prayers of the People

Nancy Walker

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

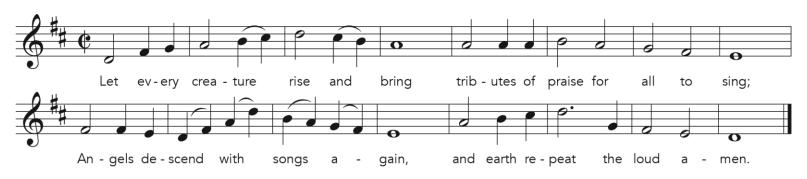
Arioso

Jason Falkofsky

Doxology

Jesus Shall Reign²

DUKE STREET



The Reading

Matthew 13:54-58
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...

Sol Rizzato

Thanks be to God!

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

Jason Falkofsky

Postlude

Postlude
And all the people said...

AMEN!

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.

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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