



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

## Worship of God

November 5, 2023, 9:30am: The Twenty-Fourth 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

Sol Rizzato

## Meditation for Preparation

"It seems to me that almost all our sadnesses are moments of tension, which we feel as paralysis because we no longer hear our astonished emotions living. Because we are alone with the unfamiliar presence that has entered us; because everything we trust and are used to is for a moment taken away from us; because we stand in the midst of a transition where we cannot remain standing. That is why the sadness passes: the new presence inside us, the presence that has been added, has entered our heart, has gone into its innermost chamber and is no longer even there, - is already in our bloodstream. And we don't know what it was. We could easily be made to believe that nothing happened, and yet we have changed, as a house that a guest has entered changes. We can't say who has come, perhaps we will never know, but many signs indicate that the future enters us in this way in order to be transformed in us, long before it happens."

—Rainer Maria Rilke

Hymn of Praise 491

*As Grain on Scattered Hillsides*

MERLE'S TUNE

Invocation

Debby Willets

Hymn of Prayer

*Christ Be In Our Senses*<sup>1</sup>

KING'S WESTON

Christ be in our senses, marked with sacred signs.  
Christ be in our vision, guard us day and night;  
Christ be in our journey, on this narrow way,  
Christ be in our breathing, constant ly im - part

In the In - car - nat - tion flesh be - came di - vine.  
keep our feet from - stum - bling, shine God's ho - ly light.  
when we feel dis - cour - aged, with no voice to pray.  
grace to ev - 'ry move - ment, peace with - in our heart.

Christ be in our hear - ing, tune us to re - joice;  
Christ be in our speak - ing, train our ev - 'ry word.  
Christ be in the si - lence, hold - ing us with care.  
Christ be in our senses, marked with sa - cred sign.

in each shout or whis - per, hear God's call - ing voice.  
In our dai - ly wit - ness, may God's truth be heard.  
In the qui - et still - ness, Christ gives faith to dare.  
In the Spir - it's pres - ence, flesh be - comes di - vine.

Prayers of the People

God in Christ Jesus...  
**Help us sense your presence.**

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

*Word and Sign*<sup>2</sup>

WORD AND SIGN



Word and sign; pulse and breath; bread and wine; life and death;  
hear the call: calm your fear. Through it all, Christ is here.

Invitation to Stewardship

Janet Long

Offertory

Sol Rizzato

Doxology

*Jesus, Light of Joy*<sup>3</sup>

LAUDA ANIMA

**Jesus light of joy surround us; let your splendid glory shine: source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign. Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.**

The Reading

Matthew 12:38-42  
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...  
**Thanks be to God!**

Nathan A. Russell

Sermon

*Here's Your Sign*

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Misner walked away from the pulpit, to the rear wall of the church. There he stretched, reaching up until he was able to unhook the cross that hung there. He carried it then, past the empty choir stall, past the organ where Kate sat, the chair where Pulliam was, on to the podium and held it before him for all to see—if only they would... Without this sign, the believer's life was confined to praising God and taking the hits. The praise was credit; the hits were interest due on a debt that could never be paid. Or, as Pulliam put it, no one knew when he had "graduated." But with it, in the religion in which this sign was paramount and foundational, well, life was a whole other matter."

—Toni Morrison, *Paradise*

Hymn of Communion

*From North and South, from East and West*<sup>4</sup>

ELLACOMBE

Invitation to Commune

Nathan A. Russell

Words of Institution

Dan Clark

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 450

*God the Spirit, Guide, and Guardian*

HYFRYDOL

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

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

Sol Rizzato

Today's artwork is *Black Cross Red Sky* (1929) by Georgia O'Keefe.

<sup>1</sup>Mary Louise Bringle, 2000, vv. 1-2, 4, alt; Nathan A. Russell, 2023, v. 3  
<sup>3</sup>David Gambrell, 2009

<sup>2</sup>Adan N. L. Tice, 2016  
<sup>4</sup>David Gambrell, 2009

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 12	11:00am:	Two or More Scripture Study Group (Gibbens' Room)
	6:00pm:	YouTube premiere of morning worship
Tuesday, November 14	7:30am:	Upper Room Devotional Gathering (Zoom)
	5:30pm:	Elders' Meeting (Hybrid)
	7:00pm:	Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Wednesday, November 15	5:00pm:	Elder's Budget Subcommittee (Hybrid)
Thursday, November 16	10:00am:	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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