

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

## Worship of God

December 17, 2023, 9:30am: The Third Sunday of Advent

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Chamber Ensemble

Meditation for Preparation

"I embrace the label of bad feminist because I am human. I am messy. I'm not trying to be an example. I am not trying to be perfect. I am not trying to say I have all the answers. I am not trying to say I'm right. I am just trying—trying to support what I believe in, trying to do some good in this world, trying to make some noise with my writing while also being myself."

—Roxanne Gay, *Bad Feminist*

Hymn of Praise 140

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

SHEFFIELD

Invocation

Janiah Jones

Hymn of Advent 128 v. 3

One Candle Is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth, join an - gels in  
 danc - ing from heav - en to earth. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift  
 high thank - ful praise. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Glennis Covault & Carmen Labbato

Choral Anthem

One December, Bright and Clear

Chamber Ensemble

Hymn of Prayer 132

When God Is a Child

MOON BEAMS

Prayers of the People

God who comes to us as a child...  
Give us joy in our song.

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

Wait for the Lord<sup>1</sup>

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong take heart.

Invitation to Stewardship

Dan Clark

Offertory *I Saw Three Ships* Chamber Ensemble

Doxology *Advent Doxology* VENI EMANUEL



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God all crea-tures here be - low.



Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly hosts: Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to us and with all peo-ple dwell.

The Reading *Genesis 20:1-7, 9, 11-12, 14, 17* Nathan A. Russell  
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...  
**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *Advent(ure): This Could Get Messy* Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence  
"It's amazing how few of us believe in the unqualified grace of God. Oh, yes, God loves us, as long as we're clean and whole and fixed. But it turns out that what disqualifies you and me from 'spirituality'—the mess of our lives—is what most qualifies us to be chosen by Jesus."  
—Mike Yaconelli, *Messy Spirituality*

Hymn of Communion 399 *O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near* BELMONT

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 *Come, O Long Expected Jesus<sup>2</sup> (reverse)* HYFRYDOL

Benediction and Charge Nathan A. Russell

Postlude *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Chamber Ensemble  
And all the people said...  
**AMEN!**

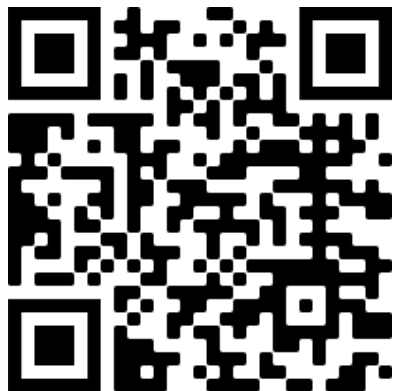
Come, O long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free.  
 Come, O u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior; come, re - deem the hu - man race.  
 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,  
 From our fears and sin re - lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
 Life and joy spring from thy fa - vor; cheer each soul in need of grace.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, born your grac - ious realm to bring.  
 You, our strength and con - so - la - tion, come sal - va - tion to im - part;  
 Still we wait for your ap - pear - ing, make our sense - less strug - gles cease.  
 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
 dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 Guide us from our wea - ry wand - 'ring in - to paths of per - fect peace.  
 by your all suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to your glo - rious throne.

<sup>1</sup>Lyrics by Taize Community, 1984      <sup>2</sup>Lyrics by Charles Wesley, 1744; v. 2 adapt. from *Light of Those Whose Dreary Dwelling* in the same vol.  
 Today's artwork is *Desert Blooms* by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Chamber Ensemble personnel are members from The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, including Debbie Bates, Kyle Crowley, Megan Fought, Mark Hermann, Rachel Imhoff, Taral Jella, Katy Kitchen, David McCallum, Karla McMullen, Holly Miller, Ted Rodenborn, Jacob Rumelfanger, Andrew Stamp, Matt Turrell, Liz Wakelin.

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

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|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 17  | 11:00am: Safe Zone Training in the Fellowship Hal    |
|                      | 6:00pm: YouTube premiere of morning worship          |
|                      | 6:00pm: Holiday party at Chad & Pastor Nathan's home |
| Monday, December 18  | 11:00am: Funeral Services for Dick Burke             |
| Tuesday, December 19 | 7:30am: Upper Room Devotional Gathering              |
| Sunday, December 24  | 9:30am: Advent 4: Worship in the Sanctuary           |
|                      | 6:00pm: YouTube premiere of morning worship          |
|                      | 7:30pm: Christmas Eve: Worship in the Sanctuary      |



We are thrilled that you are worshipping 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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