



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

Worship of God

December 24, 2023, 9:30am: The Fourth 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

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (J.S. Bach)

Sol Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"Inside God, God knows of all evil, loss, and destruction, but within God's nature, it is overcome with what is good. Here, and only here, is the world really saved from the self-destruction of evil. This does not prevent evil from affecting our lives in this world, but it offers a concept of salvation outside of this world. Thus, salvation also comes inside God in the form of the kin*dom of heaven."

—Monica Coleman, *Making A Way Out of No Way*

Hymn of Praise

*Savior of the Nations, Come*¹ NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; wo - man's son, make here your home.
From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to God the path - way leads;
Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows night with new - born light.
Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, wo - man's son, in - car - nate Word!

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
Night can - not this light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Invocation

Jan Moore

Hymn of Advent 128 v. 4

One Candle Is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play, where e - vil is
ban - ished and faith takes the day, a babe in a man - ger to
fool the world's eyes One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Polly Simmons & Chad Vickers

Hymn of Prayer

*O God, We Hear Your Word of Grace*³ (reverse)

CAROL

Prayers of the People O God, who gives us grace... **Let love and faith embrace.**

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

WAIT FOR THE LORD

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

Invitation to Stewardship

Don Hange, Jr.

Offertory

Phineas Windsor's Air (Aaron David Miller)

Sol Rizzato

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

Isaiah 52:7-10

Nathan A. Russell

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Advent(ure): Salvation Comes

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"I still have a dream that with this faith we will be able to adjourn the councils of despair and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism. With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when there will be peace on earth and goodwill toward [all]. It will be a glorious day, the morning stars will sing together, and the [children] of God will shout for joy."

–Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *A Christmas Sermon on Peace*

Hymn of Communion 142

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Invitation to Commune

Nathan A. Russell

Prayer at the Table

Mark Mathes

Words of Institution

Nathan A. Russell

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 136

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

PLEADING SAVIOR

Savior of the Nations, Come (Paul Manz)
And all the people said... **AMEN!**

O God, we hear your word of grace; the Prophet tells us this:
The world pro-claims a dif-f'rent word: How can these things be so?
The beau-ty of the Word of life do that calls us to draw near day.
Lord, show us what we're called to do as we a-wait your day.

That love and faith will soon em-brace and peace and just-ice kiss.
For all a-round this hurt-ing earth the seeds of dis-cord grow.
re-sounds through-out well a wear-y world for all to have no fear.
For wait-ing well means serv-ing, too, and walk-ing in the way.

Then all will sing out, "God is good!" Then har-vests will in-crease.
When war and con-flict, greed and pride would claim our loy-al-ty,
"Hear this!" the proph-et calls a-loud, "Sal-va-tion is at hand!
Now by your Spir-it, may we be the bear-ers of your grace,

And we will lis-ten, lov-ing Lord, as you pro-claim your peace.
too of-ten we have turned a-side from what we're called to be.
The Migh-ty God has bared their arm to com-fort all the land."
till peace and jus-tice both shall meet and love and faith em-brace.

¹Lyrics by attr. Ambarose of Milan, 4th cent. ²Lyrics by Taize Community, 1984³Lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2011 & Nathan A. Russell, 2023
Today's artwork is Christ in the Rubble by Kelly Latimore.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sunday, December 24
 - 11:00am: Two Or More: Scripture discussion group {Gibbens Room}
 - 6:00pm: YouTube premiere of morning worship
 - 7:30pm: Worship in the Sanctuary: Christmas Eve
- Monday, December 25-29
 - Church office closed for the holiday
- Sunday, December 31
 - 9:30am: Advent 4: Worship in the Sanctuary
 - 6:00pm: YouTube premiere of morning worship



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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