



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

Worship of God

January 7, 2024, 9:30am: Epiphany Sunday

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

L'Épiphanie, op. 55 No. 7 (Charles Tournemire)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"I have often noticed that these things, which obsess me, neither bother nor impress other people even slightly. I am horribly apt to approach some innocent at a gathering, and like the ancient mariner, fix him with a wild, glitt'ring eye and say, 'Do you know that in the head of the caterpillar of the ordinary goat moth there are two hundred twenty-eight separate muscles?' The poor wretch flees. I am not making chatter; I mean to change his life."

—Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

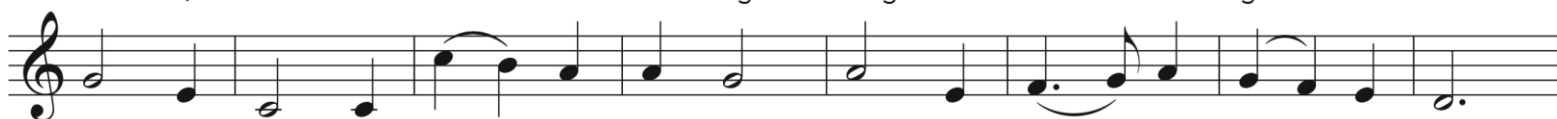
Hymn of Praise

Come, Behold What God Is Doing!

ABBOT'S LEIGH



Come, be - hold what God is do - ing through the liv - ing, breath - ing Word.
 Come, be - hold what God is do - ing in the still - ness of this hour.
 Come, be - hold what God is do - ing at the ta - ble of our Lord.
 Come, be - hold what God is do - ing with the gifts we of - fer here.
 Come, be - hold what God is do - ing through the hues of light and shade.



"God, our ref - uge, is a shel - ter!" This, the gos - pel, we church have heard.
 God is work - ing through the si - lence to re - new the church with pow'r.
 Here we find in - clu - sive wel - come as we meet in one ac - cord.
 We are grow - ing and ex - pand - ing; a bright dawn will soon ap - pear.
 As the Art - ist paints each col - or, we see rays of sun cas - cade



Though the na - tions rage with war - fare, God is urg - ing us to be
 As the sys - tems of de - struc - tion seek to kill, to steal, to shame,
 Let our dif - f'rences re - mind us how God loves di - ver - si - ty.
 As we trav - el on the jour - ney, God will guide us on the way
 on the land - scape of cre - a - tion to re - store, re - deem, re - claim.



ones who share the love of Je - sus and pro - claim God's lib - er - ty.
 we re - sist! We find new cour - age when God calls us by our name.
 What a wit - ness we are liv - ing, as we strive for u - ni - ty.
 to a fu - ture filled with jus - tice. We a - wait the com - ing day!
 Ours the task, the hope, the prom - ise. Let this vi - sion be our aim!

Invocation

Debbie Walker

Hymn of Prayer 173

As With Gladness

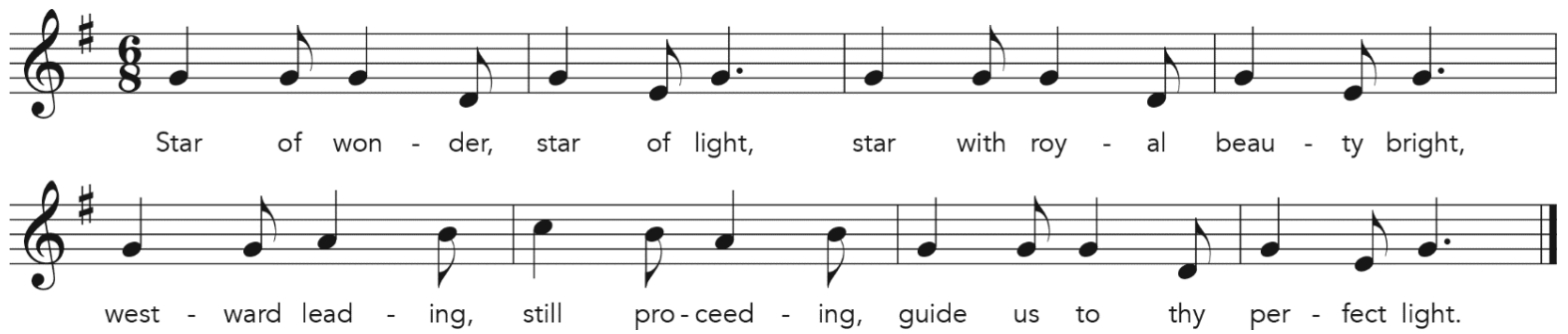
DIX

Prayers of the People

God, whom heaven and earth adore...
Let us ever seek your mercy seat.

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.



Star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,
west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

Invitation to Stewardship

Nancy Walker

Offertory

L'Épiphanie, op. 55 No. 7 (Charles Tournemire) – Contd.

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology

Epiphany Doxology²

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Still shin - ing through the deep - est night, no shad - ow can put out the light.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let all that is with - in us praise God's Word of grace and truth al - ways!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Nathan A. Russell

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

The Adventure Continues

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Then Creole stepped forward to remind them that what they were playing was the blues. He hit something in all of them, he hit something in me, myself, and the music tightened and deepened, apprehension began to beat the air. Creole began to tell us what the blues were all about. They were not about anything very new. He and his boys up there were keeping it new, at the risk of ruin, destruction, madness, and death, in order to find new ways to make us listen. For, while the tale of how we suffer, and how we are delighted, and how we may triumph is never new, it always must be heard. There isn't any other tale to tell, it's the only light we've got in all this darkness."

—James Baldwin, *Sonny's Blues*

Hymn of Communion 404

A Hymn of Joy We Sing

BOYLSTON

Invitation to Commune

Nathan A. Russell

Prayer at the Table		Janet Stevens-Brown
Words of Institution		Nathan A. Russell
Communion Meditation	<i>Variations on "Morning Star" - Lento</i>	Sol M. Rizzato
Invitation to Discipleship		Nathan A. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 322	<i>O Word of God Incarnate</i>	MUNICH
Benediction and Charge		Nathan A. Russell
Postlude	<i>Variations on "Morning Star" - Toccata</i> And all the people said... AMEN!	Sol M. Rizzato

Today's artwork is *Visit of the Three Wise Men* by JESUS MAFA.

¹Lyrics by Nathan A. Russell, 2023.

²Lyrics by Chris Shelton, 2015.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 7

- 11:00am: Congregational Meeting to approve 2024 Budget
- 11:15am: "De-Hanging of the Greens" and Lunch provided by the Hospitality Committee
- 6:00pm: YouTube Premiere of morning worship

Monday, January 8

- 9:30am: Worship Committee work-day to store Christmas decorations

Tuesday, January 9

- 7:30am: Upper Room Devotional Gathering ([Zoom](#))
- 5:30pm: Elders' Meeting (Hybrid)
- 7:00pm: Board Meeting (Hybrid)

Thursday, January 11

- 10:00am: Social Hour ([Zoom](#))
- 7:00pm Creation Care Team Meeting (Music Room)

Sunday, January 14

- 9:30am: Worship in the Sanctuary for Baptism of the Lord
- 11:00am: Two or More Scripture Discussion Group (Gibbens' Room)
- 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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