



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

## Worship of God

February 11, 2024, 9:30am: Transfiguration Sunday

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

The Spirit of God is with you...  
**And also with you!**

Nathan A. Russell

Call to Worship

Lift up your hearts...  
**We lift them to the Lord!**

Nathan A. Russell

Prelude

Sol M. Rizzato & Nathan A. Russell  
*Prelude in Classic Style (Gordon Young, arr. Lani Smith)*

Meditation for Preparation

"Did you ever see the way the clouds love a mountain? They circle all around it; sometimes you can't even see the mountain for the clouds. But you know what? You go up top and what do you see? His head. The clouds never cover the head. His head pokes through, because the clouds let him; they don't wrap him up. They let him keep his head up high, free, with nothing to hide him or bind him."

—Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*

Joy and won - der, love and long - ing, draw us to this fes - tive day,  
 l - vory of the stone - ground flour, am - ber of the grow - ing wheat,  
 Red of gar - nets, ru - bies, ros - es glis - tens in the cup we lift.  
 Like the col - ors of the rain - bow all re - fract - ing from one light,

ju - bi - lee of trans - for - ma - tion. O - pen wide our eyes, we pray:  
 gold of loaves, fresh - baked and fra - grant, where earth's bread and heav - en's pray:  
 Wine be - comes the blood of heal - ing, shed as life's most pre - cious gift.  
 gen - ders, rac - es, tribes, and na - tions gath - er at this ho - ly rite

like dis - ci - ples gone be - fore us, grant us, gra - cious God, to see  
 Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, now in - vites us to the feast  
 Scar - let as the pom - e - gran - ate, crim - son as the morn - ing skies,  
 where the hun - gry and the thirst - ing taste from God's a - bun - dant store,

in the em - blems of this ban - quet shad - ings of your mys - ter - y.  
 con - se - crat - ed on the ta - ble fur - nished by the great High Priest.  
 Christ as seed and fruit and flow - er lives to die, and dies to rise.  
 and the Son's self - emp - tying splen - dor fills our hearts for - ev - er - more.

Invocation

Sharon Siffert

Hymn of Prayer 182

*Transform Us*

PICARDY

Prayers of the People

God of transformation...  
**Lead us down our daily pathways.**

The Lord's Prayer 310

HAAS

Invitation to Stewardship

Mary Siwierka

Offertory

*How Can I Keep From Singing? (arr. Sol M. Rizzato)*

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology 379

*Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring*

ELLACOMBE

**Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay, transform them into blessings on those we serve today. Rekindle deep within us a passion to fulfill the ministry disciples have, empowered to do your will.**

The Reading

Mark 9:1-13

Nathan A. Russell

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

*On the Trail of the Messiah: Up & Down the Mountain*

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting – over and over announcing your place in the family of things."

–Mary Oliver, *Wild Geese*

Hymn of Communion 403	<i>In Remembrance of Me</i>	RED
Invitation to Commune		Nathan A. Russell
Prayer at the Table		Lauri Warfield
Words of Institution		Nathan A. Russell
Invitation to Discipleship		Nathan A. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 450	<i>God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian</i>	HYFRYDOL
Benediction and Charge		Nathan A. Russell
Postlude	<i>Variations on 'HYFRYDOL' (Albert L. Travis)</i> And all the people said... <b>AMEN!</b>	Sol M. Rizzato

Today's artwork is *Transfiguration* (1973) by JESUS MAFA. JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

In this theatrical representation of Jesus' transfiguration, Jesus is robed in a dazzling white garment, as the story in the gospels describes. He appears to be greeting Moses and Elijah like old friends as they are surrounded by a cloud that makes the whole scene feel ethereal. Peter, James, and John look on with flabbergasted and fearful expressions, bewildered at what they should do. This painting invites the viewer to imagine what it would be like to have seen such amazing things. Undoubtedly, it would inspire one to follow and obey Jesus, just as God commands in the story: "This is my son, the beloved. Listen to him!".

<sup>1</sup>Words: Mary Louise Bringle, Music: Hal H. Hopson, 2002, 2004

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 11

- 9:30am: Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:00am Lunch in the Fellowship Hall to wish Pastor Nathan "bon voyage" as he begins his sabbatical on Ash Wednesday (February 14)

Tuesday, February 13

- 7:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 5:30pm: Elders' Meeting (Hybrid)
- 7:00pm: Board Meeting (Hybrid)

Wednesday, February 14

- 7:00pm: Worship on Ash Wednesday in the WACC Sanctuary

Thursday, February 15

- 7:00-8:30pm: Lenten Study (Zoom)

Sunday, February 18: First Sunday in Lent

- 9:30am: Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:00am: Two or More Scripture discussion group (in Gibbens Room)



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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