



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

Worship of God

August 10, 2025; 9:30am: The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Processional (William Mathias)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"Anyone whose goal is 'something higher' must expect someday to suffer vertigo. What is vertigo? Fear of falling? No, Vertigo is something other than fear of falling. It is the voice of the emptiness below us which tempts and lures us, it is the desire to fall, against which, terrified, we defend ourselves."

–Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*

Hymn of Praise *O God, Who Gives Us Life¹* (Back cover) NOEL

Invocation Don Hange, Jr.

Hymn of Prayer 609 *Take My Life* HENDON

Prayers of the People God of every gift... **Consecrate our lives to you.** Debbie Walker

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 306 *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord* HEAR OUR PRAYER

Invitation to Stewardship Janet Stevens-Brown

Offertory *Moderato* (Elizabeth Stirling) Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology 23 v. 2 *Praise to God for Grace and Favor* LAUDA ANIMA

Praise to God for grace and favor shown to all who are oppressed.
God shows steadfast love forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithful-ness!

The Reading Luke 17:26-37 Nathan A. Russell
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant... **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *Great Expectations* Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"There's a reason we refer to 'leaps of faith' - because the decision to consent to any notion of divinity is a mighty jump from the rational over to the unknowable, and I don't care how diligently scholars of every religion will try to sit you down with their stacks of books and prove to you through scripture that their faith is indeed rational; it isn't. If faith were rational, it wouldn't be - by definition - faith. Faith is belief in what you cannot see or prove or touch. Faith is walking face-first and full-speed into the dark. If we truly knew all the answers in advance as to the meaning of life and the nature of God and the destiny of our souls, our belief would not be a leap of faith and it would not be a courageous act of humanity; it would just be... a prudent insurance policy."

-Elizabeth Gilbert, *Eat, Pray, Love*

Hymn of Communion 425

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

Invitation to Commune

Debbie Walker

Prayer at the Table

Mark Mathes

Words of Institution

Debbie Walker

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship

Mighty God Who Called Creation²

WEISSE FLAGGEN

Might - y God who called cre - a - tion from the un - formed womb of space,
 As we wor - ship, may your Spir - it breathe through us the pow'r of prayer,
 Root - ed in the love of Je - sus, nour - ished by his flesh and blood,
 Keep us faith - ful, joy - ful, lov - ing, filled with hope through grief and pain,

new - born worlds of gleam - ing glo - ry, fresh with hope and ripe with grace:
 words of life for dai - ly liv - ing, strength to do and faith to dare.
 may we prove a fruit - ful vine - yard joined in mut - ual serv - ant - hood.
 know - ing that the One who made us has re - deemed and will sus - tain:

speak a - gain with power and prom - ise when the storms of fear in - crease;
 Come, en - flame us, Ho - ly Spir - it, like the church at Pen - te - cost;
 Work through us, O ris - en Sav - ior, to reap peace from fields of strife;
 Tri - une God, of bound - less glo - ry, yet in hu - man form made known,

to our cha - os and con - fu - sion let your light and truth bring peace.
 help us bear the light of bless - ing to the least, the last, the lost.
 bring our bar - ren wastes to blos - som; lead us out of death to life.
 raise us up to be a peo - ple called by love to be your own.

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Sol M. Rizzato

Triptych for Organ III. Introduction and Toccata on "Weisse flaggen" (Alfred V. Fedak)

And all the people said...

AMEN!

Today's artwork is a photo of Chimney Rock (right) and Companion Rock (left) at Chimney Rock National Monument in Chimney Rock, Colorado.

¹WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1990; MUSIC: English melody

²WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1996; MUSIC: *Tochter Zion*, 1741

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,
 who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we find you even there; name.
 de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,
 Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 10

- 11:00am: Two Or More: Scripture discussion group {Gibbens Room}
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere

Tuesday, August 12

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional 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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