



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

## Worship of God

September 7, 2025; 9:30am: The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour		The Atwood Carillon
Greeting	The Spirit of God is with you... <b>And also with you!</b>	Nathan A. Russell
Call to Worship	Lift up your hearts... <b>We lift them to the Lord!</b>	Nathan A. Russell
Prelude	<i>Prelude on "St. Columba"</i> (Healy Willan)	Sol M. Rizzato

### Meditation for Preparation

"Whenever we interact with others, the love we give and receive is always necessarily conditional. Although it is not impossible, it is very difficult and rare for us to be able to extend unconditional love to others, largely because we cannot exercise control over the behavior of someone else and we cannot predict or utterly control our responses to their actions."

—bell hooks, *All About Love*

Invocation

Debby Willets

Hymn of Prayer

Why Has God Forsaken Me?<sup>1</sup>

SHIMPI

"Why has God for - sak - en me?" Je - sus cried out from the cross  
 At the tomb of Laz - a - rus Je - sus wept with o - pen grief:  
 Je - sus, as his life ex - pired, placed him - self with - in God's care:  
 Mys - t'ry shrouds our life and death but we need not be - a - fraid,

as he shared the lone - li - ness of our deep - est grief and loss.  
 grant us, God, the tears which heal all our pain and un - be - lief.  
 at our dy - ing, Christ, may we trust the love that con - quers fear.  
 for the mys - t'ry's heart is love, God's great love which Christ dis - played.

Prayers of the People

Mark Mathes

God of mystery...  
 Help us trust the love which conquers fear.

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 638 v. 3

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

PROMISE

In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time. in - fin - i - ty; in our doubt there is be -  
 liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty. In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to -  
 ry, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Invitation to Stewardship

Kimberly Wilhelm

Offertory

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology 20 v. 1

I'll Praise My Maker

OLD 113<sup>th</sup>

I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death, praise  
 shall em - ploy my no - bler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past while  
 life and thought and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

The Reading John 11:1-6, 17-27 Nathan A. Russell  
 For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...  
**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *When Things Get Iffy* Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence  
 "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."  
 –Martin Luther King, Jr., *Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech*

Hymn of Communion 387 *Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken* EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

Invitation to Commune Mark Mathes

Prayer at the Table Lauri Warfield

Words of Institution Mark Mathes

Invitation to Discipleship Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship *"Come, Lazarus," the Savior Called<sup>2</sup>* BANGOR

"Come, Laz - a - rus," the Sav - ior called; and from the ston - y grave came  
 It was no light or eas - y task to wake this one who slept; the  
 Fill us with your com - pas - sion, Lord, our fear and pride re - move, till  
 Con - vert our wills and make us whole; wean us from self - ish strife; trans -  
 Then send us forth to show your love in ev - ery time and place, that  
 forth his friend, from death un - thrall'd, to show God's power to save.  
 Heal - er feigned no cal - lous mask: moved deep - ly Je - sus wept.  
 all our lives en - flesh your word and bear your wounds of love.  
 form each heart and mind and soul with your a - bun - dant life.  
 healed and heal - ing, we may prove the chan - nels of your grace.

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Today's artwork is *Jesus raises Lazarus to life* (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. The Lazarus story comes alive in this painting of the Cameroon community's dramatic interpretation. In this rendering of Lazarus' resurrection, Jesus' posture is dynamic, showing through his movements the call to Lazarus to rise and "Come out!" We see the joyous and surprised responses by the onlookers, who include his sisters Mary and Martha. Their hands are in a clapping, celebratory stance while they gaze at their brother whose face emotes a mixture of shock, relief, and happiness. This painting invokes within the viewer a sense of awe and elation similar to the story it portrays.

<sup>1</sup>WORDS: William Livingstone Wallace, 2001; MUSIC: Taihei Sato, 1990

<sup>2</sup>WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1990; MUSIC: William Tans'ur, Harmony of Zion, 1734

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Weekly Calendar

- 10:00am-2:00pm: Office Hours and Labyrinth Open

### Sunday, September 7

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

### Monday, September 8

- 10:00-11:00 am Worship Committee Mtg. (Hybrid)

### Tuesday, September 9

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 5:30-7:00pm: Elders' Meeting (Hybrid)
- 7:00-8:30pm: Board Meeting (Hybrid)



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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