



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

Worship of God

November 30, 2025; 9:30am: The First Sunday of Advent

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

Prelude on Rhosymedre (Ralph Vaughan Williams)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

“Each night, without fail, she prayed for blue eyes. Fervently, for a year she had prayed. Although somewhat discouraged, she was not without hope. To have something as wonderful as that would take a long, long time.”

–Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

Hymn of Praise

Advent Begins in the Darkness of Night (Insert)

RESCOV

Invocation

Mary Siwierka

Hymn of Advent 128 v. 1

One Candle Is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night, our a hearts long to
greet you, as ros - es, the light. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our
vi - sion en - gage. One can - dle is lit for the hope oe the age.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Glendora Hange and Don Hange, Jr.

Hymn of Prayer

*O God, Not Far Away*¹

RHOSYMEDRE

O God, not far a - way but pre - sent with us here, en - fold us in your
De - fend us from our doubts, from yield - ing to des - pair, and from the wear - i -
Help us to live in hope, with con - fi - dence and joy; give us a vi - brant
love and shield our lives from fear. Give us, we pray, your prom - ised peace; with
ness that haunts us ev - ery - where. Re - new our vi - gor; steel our nerve; bring
faith that dread can - not de - stroy. Through us may oth - ers see your light and
grace and grit our faith in - crease un - til these bit - ter trou - bles cease.
back to life the dor - mant verve of those who know the God they serve.
hu - man wills with yours u - nite till you at last make all things right.

Prayers of the People

O God, not far away...
Help us to live in hope.

Sue Pray

Ad - vent be - gins in the dark - ness of night, wait - ing and
 Ad - vent be - gins with our dreams yet de - ferred. Love sounds ri -
 Ad - vent be - gins in op - pres - sion's do - main, marked by the
 Ad - vent goes on till the prom - ised dawn breaks, ty - rants are

watch - ing for signs of a light, walk - ing in faith that a path will ap -
 dic - u - lous; prayer seems ab - surd. But in the midst of life's cen - ter - less
 cries of con - fu - sion and pain. Yet hope is kin - dled where jus - tice is
 top - pled, and God's dream a - wakes. Hope is per - fect - ed and faith is made

pear, dar - ing to fol - low in spite of our fear.
 maze, we lift to - geth - er our pro - test of praise.
 done, mer - cy is nur - tured and peace is be - gun.
 sight. Love is our cen - ter and Christ is our light.

WORDS: David Bjorlin, 2017

MUSIC: Benjamin Brody, 2017

O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 Lord, strength - en all who la - bor that we may find re - lease
 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - mighty - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and na - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray,
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

WORDS: William Watkins Reid, Jr., 1958

MUSIC: Welsh folk melody, 1865

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

Upon the Holy Mountainside²

MORNING SONG

Up - on the ho - ly moun - tain - side, God teach - es us new ways
to shape our wea - pons in - to tools for com - ing peace - ful days.

Invitation to Stewardship

Don Hange, Jr.

Offertory

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming (Angela Kraft Cross)

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology

Among Us Came the Word to Dwell^β

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

A - mong us came the Word to dwell, the Word made flesh, Em-man-u - el! Al-le - lu - ia!
Al-le - lu - ia! Though in our sin we failed to see, still by this Word we are set free. Al-le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Nathan A. Russell

For the Word of God in its promise and covenant... **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Hope Is Not Far Away

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Nothing is hopeless; we must hope for everything."

—Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*

Hymn of Communion 419

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

HOLY MANNA

Invitation to Commune

Sue Pray

Prayer at the Table

Pam Sheetz

Words of Institution		Sue Pray
Communion Meditation	<i>Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel"</i> (Angela Kraft Cross)	Sol M. Rizzato
Invitation to Discipleship		Nathan A. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship	<i>O God of Every Nation</i> (Insert)	LLANGLOFFAN
Benediction and Charge		Nathan A. Russell
Postlude	<i>Adagio in E</i> (Frank Bridge) And all the people said... AMEN!	Sol M. Rizzato

Today's artwork is War No More (2022) Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
¹WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 2025; MUSIC: John David Edwards, ca. 1838. Today marks the world premiere of this hymn.
²WORDS: Adam M. L. Tice, 2010; MUSIC: *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813
³WORDS: Chris Shelton, 2015; MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Weekly Calendar

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

Sunday, November 30

- 11:00am "Hanging of the Greens" with lunch to follow
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere
- 11:59pm: Poinsettia Orders due!

Tuesday, December 2

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 11:30am-1:00pm: Church Life & Growth & Outreach Com. Mtg. (Hybrid)
- 5:30-6:30pm: Stewardship Committee Mtg. (Zoom)

Saturday, December 6

- 4:00-5:00pm: Sol Rizzato Organ Recital at Hiram Christin Church



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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