



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

## Worship of God

December 7, 2025; 9:30am: The Second 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

*The Peace May be Exchanged from "Rubrics"* (Dan Locklair)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"People who claim that they're evil are usually no worse than the rest of us... It's people who claim that they're good, or any way better than the rest of us, that you have to be wary of."

—Gregory Maguire, *Wicked*

Hymn of Praise 140

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

SHEFFIELD

Invocation

Kimberly Wilhelm

Hymn of Advent 128 v. 2

*One Candle Is Lit*

CRADLE SONG

Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare for a gift that com -  
pels us with jus - tice to care. Our spir - its are rest - less till  
sin and war cease. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Kathy & Mark Wainwright

Hymn of Prayer 700

*O Day of God, Draw Nigh*

ST.MICHAEL

Prayers of the People

O God of the New Day...  
Bring justice to our land.

Mark Mathes

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 Mountainside*<sup>1</sup>

MORNING SONG

A blos - som o - pens to the light and grows from Jes - se's stem.  
In such an un - ex - pec - ted hour peace blooms in Beth - le - hem.

Invitation to Stewardship

Dan Clark

Offertory

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology

*Among Us Came the Word to Dwell*

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 11:1-10

Nathan A. Russell

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

Sermon

*Peace Is Not Far Away*

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"As Christians, we must maintain day in and day out that peace is not something to be achieved by our power. Rather peace is a gift of God that comes only by our being a community formed around a crucified savior—a savior who teaches us how to be peaceful in a world in rebellion against its true Lord. God's peaceful kingdom, we learn, comes not by positing a common human morality, but by our faithfulness as a peaceful community that fears not our differences."

—Stanley Hauerwas, *The Peaceable Kingdom*

Hymn of Communion 136

*Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*

PLEADING SAVIOR

Invitation to Commune

Mark Mathes

Prayer at the Table

Janet Stevens-Brown

Words of Institution

Mark Mathes

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 711

*O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines*

CANDLER

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Sol M. Rizzato

And all the people said...  
**AMEN!**

<sup>1</sup>WORDS: Adam M. L. Tice, 2010; MUSIC: *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

<sup>3</sup>WORDS: Chris Shelton, 2015; MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623

The image of the stump of Jesse might have knocked the air out of those first hearing these words. The stump represented the end of the Davidic dynasty, the family line believed to carry Yahweh's goodness. The monarchy was either thwarted by the Babylonian exile, or the Assyrian empire—historically, we're not exactly sure. Regardless, Isaiah names what no one wants to say out loud—Jerusalem's political future feels dead, cut off, stunted by despair. The image of a stump might accurately represent how we feel about our own future. Greenhouse gases and sea levels continue to rise. No place—schools, sanctuaries, theaters, malls—is safe from mass shooting attacks. Our government leaders fight like lions and wolves starving for dominance. We also need Isaiah's vision for a reordered world where creation exists in harmony, not as a threat to itself. When reading this poetry of peace, I found myself pausing at the line, "and a child shall lead them" (Is. 11:6). The example of Naomi Wadler came to mind. After the Parkland, FL, school shooting, Naomi, an eleven-year-old at the time, organized a walkout at her elementary school to honor victims of gun violence. In addition to those slain in Parkland, Naomi and her fifth grade classmates also recognized people of color who are killed by gun violence every day and never make news headlines. Naomi went on to speak courageously before crowds in DC and on TV shows about the need for gun reform. When she spoke, she held the nation—and much of the world—captive with her passion, her insight, and her urgency. Where is new life shooting up? Perhaps in the places where God can't wait for peace. Perhaps in the voices of our children, who urge us to find a better way. —Lisle Gwynn Garrity

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Weekly Calendar

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

### Sunday, December 7

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

### Tuesday, December 9

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

### Wednesday, December 10

- 5:00-8:00pm: Reel Religion Film Festival: *Christmas: A Christmas Carol*

### Sunday, December 14

- 9:30am: Sunday Worship: Third Sunday of Advent
- 11:00am: Two Or More: Scripture discussion group {Gibbens Room}
- 4:00-8:00pm: WACC Holiday Christmas Party at Pastor Nathan's
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere



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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