



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

Worship of God

December 21, 2025; 9:30am: Fourth 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

O Come, All Ye Faithful (arr. Mack Wilberg)

Chamber Ensemble

Meditation for Preparation

"Love is what carries you, for it is always there, even in the dark, or most in the dark, but shining out at times like gold stitches in a piece of embroidery."

—Wendell Berry, *Hannah Coulter*

Hymn of Praise 119

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Invocation

Debby Willets

Hymn of Advent 128 v. 4

One Candle Is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play, where e - vil is
ban - ished and faith takes the day, a babe in a man - ger to
fool the world's eyes One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Sandy & Bob Rieth

Choral Anthem

Fum, Fum, Fum (arr. Mack Wilberg)

Chamber Ensemble

Hymn of Prayer

The Day of God is Coming (Insert)

KING'S LYNN

Prayers of the People

Lill McNeal

God whose day is dawning...
Help us confide in your promise.

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*¹

MORNING SONG

A wo - man bears Im - man - u - el with hope that leads to birth.
Like Ma - ry, so we long to greet the dawn of peace on earth.

The Day of God is Coming

This hymn text, written for the season of Advent by the Rev. Dr. Carl P. Daw, Jr.,
receives its world premiere in our singing today.

The day of God is coming, we know not when or how.
God's time is not like our time, we can wait and hope
Con - fi - ding in God's prom - ise, we wait and pray

That longed - for time ap - proach - es and may be dawn - ing now.
our mo - ments and love our e - ons and prove e - qual - ly un - fit.
un - til in love and mer - cy God shall re - veal that day.

The mind of the Al - might - y no mor - tal un - der - stands,
God's time in - volves a full - ness where will and pur - pose blend
Then will the cos - mos wel - come new heav - ens and new earth,

but we be - lieve our fu - ture is held with - in God's hands.
in ways our best pro - jec - tions can nev - er com - pre - hend.
and God's ful - filled in - ten - tions will come at last to birth.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 2025
MUSIC: English melody

KING'S LYNN
76.76D

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free.
Come, O u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior; come, re - deem the hu - man race.
Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

From our fears and sin re - lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
Life and joy spring from thy fa - vor; cheer each soul in need of grace.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, born your grac - ious realm to bring.

You, our strength and con - so - la - tion, come sal - va - tion to im - part;
Still we wait for your ap - pear - ing, make our sense - less strug - gles cease.
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
Guide us from our wea - ry wand - 'ring in - to paths of per - fect peace.
by your all suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to your glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

HYFRYDOL
87.87D

Invitation to Stewardship

Ron Dauphin

Offertory

Festival First Nowell (arr. Dan Forrest)

Chamber Ensemble

Doxology

*Among Us Came the Word to Dwell*²

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 7:10-16

Nathan A. Russell

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

Sermon

Love Is Not Far Away

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Love is divine only and difficult always. If you think it is easy you are a fool. If you think it is natural you are blind. It is a learned application without reason or motive except that it is God. You do not deserve love regardless of the suffering you have endured. You do not deserve love because somebody did you wrong. You do not deserve love just because you want it. You can only earn - by practice and careful contemplations - the right to express it and you have to learn how to accept it."

—Toni Morrison, *Paradise*

Hymn of Communion 420

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

Invitation to Commune

Lill McNeal

Prayer at the Table

Gerald Western

Words of Institution

Lill McNeal

Communion Meditation

Still, Still, Still (Paul Manz)

Sol M. Rizzato

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (Insert)

HYFRYDOL

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

"Hallelujah!" from *Messiah* (George Frederic Handel)
And all the people said... **AMEN!**

Chamber Ensemble

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

²WORDS: Chris Shelton, 2015; MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 21

- 11:00am: Two Or More: Advent Book Study "Prepare" {Gibbens Room}
- 2:30-5:30pm: WACC Holiday Party at Pastor Nathan's
- 6:00pm: YouTube Worship Premiere

Tuesday, December 23

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 24

- 7:30pm: Christmas Eve Worship Service

Thursday, December 25-January 4:

- Merry Christmas! Church office closed

WACC CHAMBER ENSEMBLE FROM MEMBERS OF THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA CHORUS

Debbie Bates, Ruby Chen, Brooke Emmel, Elisha Evanko, Sarah Henley, Kurtis B. Hoffman, Karen Hunt, Adam Kilo, David McCallum, Eddie Papp, Victoria Peacock, Matt Rizer, Ted Rodenborn, Rachel Thibo, Ryan Yonek, Paul Zito

POINSETTIAS

GIVEN BY:

Jane Hutson
Sol Rizzato
Nathan A. Russell
Nancy Walker

IN HONOR OF:

My family
Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), Oklahoma City, and John L. Edwards
WACC Lay Leaders & Staff
The People at WACC

GIVEN BY:

Dan Clark
Diane Clement
Jane Hutson
Dick Lee
Lill McNeal
Mary Lou & Alan Petersen
Sandy & Bob Rieth
Kathy & Mark Wainwright
Marcia Widman

IN MEMORY OF:

Janet Long
Harold Clement and Lisa Smith
Brenda Keenan
Linda Lee
Carson McNeal
Karen Wehman & Bob Hancock
Bob & Lois Rieth, and Red & Peg Stevens
Our Parents
Lloyd Worcester, Jean Worcester, Keith Worcester, David Worcester, Jane Worcester
Burkey, Scott David Worcester
Elaine & Ernest Schmittgen, Jean & Don Willets, Barbara Schmittgen Lloyd, and
Donald Joseph Willets

Debbly Willets



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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