

Today's artwork is a window by Louis C. Tiffany (1928), Christ Church (Episcopal), Cambridge, Maryland. Photo by David M. Storey Pipe Organ Builders, 2015

1 Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Tune: Marty Haugen

2 Words: Mary Louise Bringle Tune: Welsh melody

3 Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette and Nathan A. Russell, Tune: Samuel S. Wesley

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 28

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

Tuesday, December 30

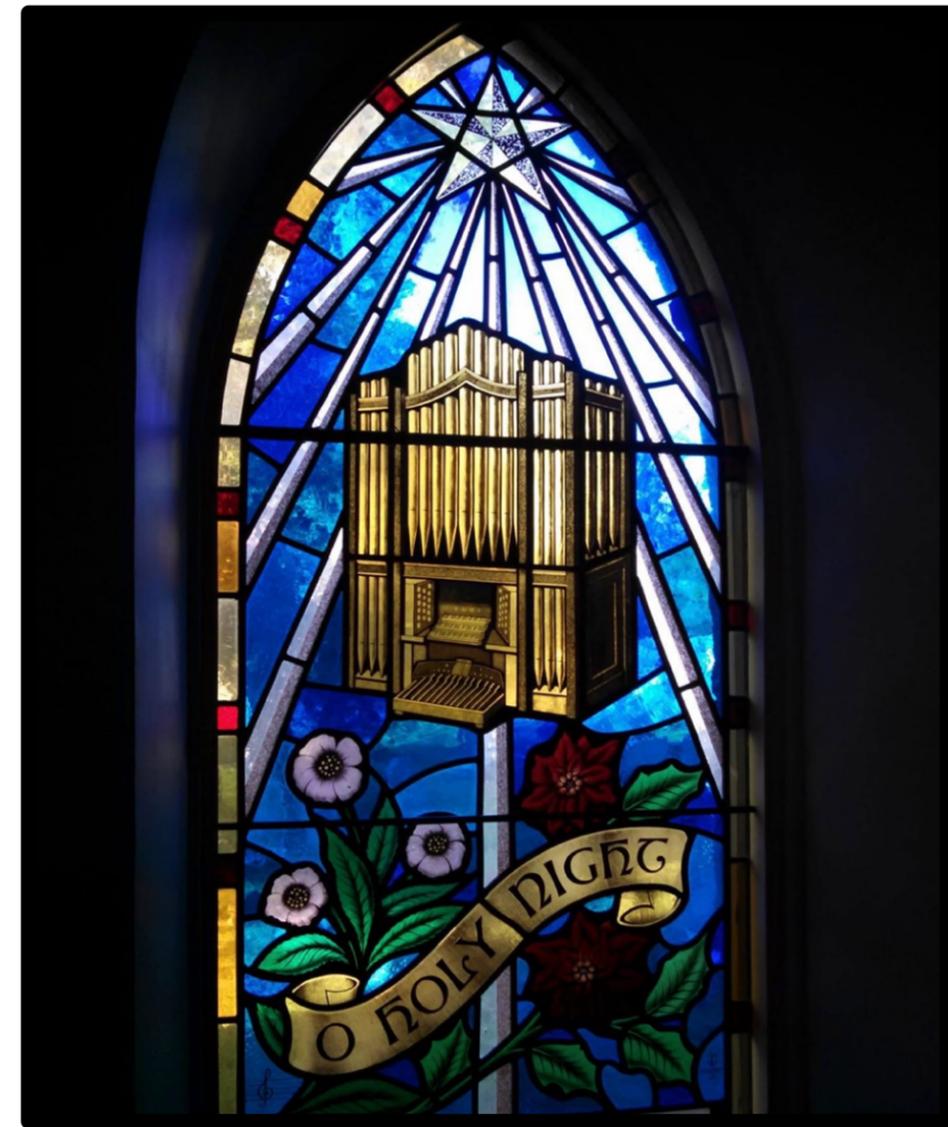
- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour
- 7:00-8:30pm: Christian Ed. Mtg. (Hybrid)

Wednesday, December 31

- HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sunday, January 4

- 9:30am: Sunday Worship: Epiphany of the Lord
- 11:00am: Congregational Meeting, "De-hanging the Greens" and Meal to follow
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere



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

Worship of God

December 28, 2025, 9:30am: First Sunday After Christmas
Season of Hope: A Service of Lessons and Carols

Chiming the Hour

The Atwood Carillon

Greeting

The Spirit of God is with you...
And also with you!

Sol M. Rizzato

Introduction to the Service of Lessons and Carols

Sol M. Rizzato

Call to Worship

Lift up your hearts...
We lift them to the Lord!

Sol M. Rizzato



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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Hymn

When We Face an Unknown Future¹

JOYOUS LIGHT

When we face an un - known fu - ture that we can't im - ag - ine yet, when the
 Je - sus faced the lone - ly de - sert as a time to look with - in. There he
 May we cher - ish all a - round us as we ne - ver have be - fore. May we
 God, when change - s seem to threat - en, and when so much here feels wrong, may we

path a - head is wind - ing, and we fear for our next step, as we
 met such trial and con - flict; there he knew you were with him. In this
 think much less of prof - it, may we learn what mat - ters more. May we
 know this thing for cer - tain: Yes, your love is sure and strong! You're be -

long for the fa - mil - iar, as we doubt what we can't see, may we
 time of end - less ques - tions, when we miss the life we've known, may we
 hear cre - a - tion's groan - ing, may we see an - oth - er's pain. May we
 side us in our doubt - ing, and when times are sure - ly tough, we will

look, God, in this sea - son for a whole new way to be.
 hear your voice pro - claim - ing, "I am here! You're not a lone!"
 learn new ways of of - fering life and hope in Je - sus' name.
 face this un - known fu - ture, as it's filled, Lord, with your love.

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Bob Maxwell

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.
 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
 Great will be his authority,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
**He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.**
 The zeal of the Lord almighty will do this.

Prayers of the People

God of Hope...
Give us power to love and witness.

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.

Meditation

Still, Still, Still (Brenda Portman)

Sol M. Rizzato

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-4

Bob Reith

Hymn

The Love that Goes Unspoken²

LLANGLOFFAN

The love that goes un - spo - ken, that fears would force to hide,
 As po - ets and mu - si - cians, in Pi - e - tas of grace,
 In var - ied forms of fam - 'ly in un - ions yet un - blessed,
 Christ loves with - out dis - tinc - tion, both joys and sor - rows borne,

still blooms in clos - et spac - es, too strong to be de - nied.
 the out - cast of our church - es cast light on Mys - t'ry's face.
 as sib - lings and as guard - i - ans and kin with earth's op - pressed,
 and wel - comes o - pen - heart - ed the one whom oth - ers scorn.

The Spir - it's wind blows free - ly to o - pen bol - ted doors,
 They trans - late for our wit - ness the gifts the gos - pel brings,
 all dwell with - in God's house - hold, yet some bear in - sults hurled,
 We shall not, then, be shack - led by need - less guilt or shame.

and beck - on in - to day - light a love that hate de - plores.
 and to cel - e - brate God's grand - eur in rare and dap - pled things.
 In chide the so - called "bar - ren" whose chil - dren are the world's
 Christ, the love un - spo - ken now dares to speak its name.

The Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11: 6–9

Gerald Western

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
**the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

**They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.**

Hymn 141

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

ANDÚJAR

Invitation to Commune

Mark Mathes

Prayer at the Table

Debbie Walker

Words of Institution

Mark Mathes

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1: 26–35, 38

Bob Maxwell

Hymn 150

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2: 1–7

Bob Reith

Hymn 165

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

The Seventh Lesson

Matthew 2: 1–11

Debbie Walker

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east¹⁰ and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

**And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.**

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Meditation

Meditation and Improvisation on "We Three Kings" (John L. Edwards)

Sol M. Rizzato

The Eighth Lesson

John 1: 1–5

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
They were in the beginning with God.

**All things came into being through God, and without God not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in God was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.**

Hymn

*Another Year is Dawning*³

AURELIA



An - oth - er year is daw - ing: Cre - a - tor, let it be, in work - ing and in
An - oth - er year of mer - cies, of faith - ful - ness and grace; an - oth - er year of
An - oth - er year of ser - vice, of wit - ness for thy love; an - oth - er year of
An - oth - er year of won - der, of awe and love and praise; an - oth - er year of



wait - ing, an - oth - er - year with thee; an - oth - er year of prac - tice, an - oth - er year of
glad - ness in shin - ing of thy face; an - oth - er year of lean - ing up - on thy lov - ing
train - ing for hol - ier work a - bove. An - oth - er year is dawn - ing; Cre - a - tor let it
trav - el, we journ - ey through the days; Your Spir - it leads us sun - ward, one place we can - not



play, an - oth - er year of seek - ing thy pres - ence all the days.
breast; an - oth - er year of trust - ing, of qui - et, hap - py rest.
be, on earth as is in heav - en an - oth - er year for thee.
stay; from door - steps to earth's cor - ners, our home is on the way.

Benediction and Charge

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella (Keith Chapman)

Sol M. Rizzato

And all the people said...
AMEN!