



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

Worship of God

January 4, 2026; 9:30am: Epiphany of the Lord

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

Lisa Miragliotta

Meditation for Preparation

"I'm so starstruck... cause you blow my heart up."

-Lady Gaga, *Starstruck*

Hymn of Praise 176

Sing of God Made Manifest

SALZBURG

Invocation

David Stroup

Hymn of Prayer

Wise Ones Came Journeying¹

BONNIE GEORGE CAMPBELL

Wise ones came jour - ney - ing, once, long a - go, cam - el hooves
 Wise are the trav - el - ers, led, to move on, fol - low - ing
 Wise are each one of us look - ing for change, star - gaz - er
 Wise ones keep jour - ney - ing all through their days, bring - ing their

swirl - ing the sand dune and snow, gold in the sad - dle - bag,
 signs where the Christ light had shone, fac - ing the des - erts and
 peo - ple, re - spect - ing the strange, in - ner and out - er worlds
 gifts to the source of their praise, risk - ing the prom - ise with

myrrh in the jar, in - cense to hon - or the Child of the star.
 cross - ing the lines, heed - ing no lim - its that cul - ture de - fines.
 o - pen to light, cent - ered on see - ing the real and the right.
 all they hold dear, seek - ing God's peace at the door of the year.

Prayers of the People

Giver of the light...
Help us to seek your peace.

Gerald Western

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

O Jesus, While the Star of Grace²

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us on to seek your face, let
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of your light to use.

Invitation to Stewardship

Kimberly Wilhelm

Offertory

Lisa Miragliotta

Doxology

*God of Swirling Galaxy*³

DIX

God of swirl-ing gal - a - xy, by whose word light came to be, pierce the gloom of deep-est night
with a star that shines so bright. Be our true E - piph - a - ny that your fu - ture we may see.

The Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Nathan A. Russell

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

Sermon

Starstruck

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"But it may yet be that this is what enchants me most about the light: that it knows what to do with distance, how it arcs across the space between a heart and a heart, illuminating the longing through which the farthest of stars might be seen."

—Jan Richardson, *How the Stars Get In Your Bones*

Hymn of Communion

*In the Darkness Shines the Splendour*⁴

IRBY

In the dark - ness shines the splen - dour of the Word who took our flesh,
Light of na - tions, veiled in his - t'ry, born of wo - man's flesh and blood,
Bro - ken bread, sus - tain - ing us in sor - row, wine poured out to toast our joy;
All God's peo - ple, sing in ju - bi - la - tion of the birth that sets us free,
wel - com - ing, in love's sur - ren - der, death's dark shad - ow at his creche.
call - ing to the depths of mys - t'ry rest - less hearts that seek the good.
ex - o - dus and new to - mor - row, life's full prom - ise to en - joy!
tell - ing of the rev - e - la - tion: Je - sus, God's e - piph - a - ny.
Bear - ing ev - 'ry hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh re - veals God's glo - ry.
Heal - ing ev - 'ry hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh re - veals God's glo - ry.
Glad - d'ning ev - 'ry hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh re - veals God's glo - ry.
Cel - e - brate the hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh be - comes our glo - ry.

Invitation to Commune

Gerald Western

Prayer at the Table

Sue Pray

Words of Institution		Gerald Western
Invitation to Discipleship		Nathan A. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 172	<i>We Three Kings</i>	KINGS OF ORIENT
Benediction and Charge		Nathan A. Russell
Postlude	And all the people said... AMEN!	Lisa Miragliotta

Today's artwork is *Shining Hope* by Lauren Wright Pittman © A Sanctified Art LLC | Sanctifiedart.org The Rev. Pittman writes of her artwork, "After a long journey, the star hovers, suspended over the wise men's destination. Shining Hope images the joy of this moment and reminds us to revel in wonder of the journey itself."

¹WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1996; MUSIC: Scottish melody

²WORDS: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.; MUSIC : Trier ms. 15th cent; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609

³WORDS: Nathan A. Russell, 2025; MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

⁴WORDS: Bernadette Gasslein, 1992; MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 4

- 11:00am: Congregational Meeting & De-Hanging of the Green
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere

Monday, January 5

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

Tuesday, January 6

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

Wednesday, January 7

- 5:00-8:00pm: Reel Religion Film Festival: *The Lion King*

Saturday, January 10

- 9:30am-1:30pm: Memorial services for Margi & The Rev. Ken Evans at North Arlington Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



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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