



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

Worship of God

February 22, 2026, 9:30am: First Sunday in Lent

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

Cantabile from Organ Symphony No. 1 (Elfrida Andrée)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free."

—Wendell Berry, *The Peace of Wild Things*

Hymn of Praise 65

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

Invocation

Dan Clark

Hymn of Prayer 179

Forty Days and Forty Nights

HEINLEIN

Prayers of the People

God of the journey...
Grant that we not faint nor fail!

Lauri Warfield

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

Hear Now the Prayers We Offer¹

PASSION CHORALE

Hear now the prayers we of - fer, O God our guide and friend. Through - out our Lent - en
 jour - ney, di - rect us toward your end. Con - vict, cor - rect, and heal us, trans - form - ing all our
 ways, and let your grace and mer - cy sus - tain us through these days.

Invitation to Stewardship

Kathy Wainwright

Offertory

From "Chorale and Variations" Rachel Laurin

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology 633 v. 2

Lead On, O Fiery Pillar

LANCASHIRE

Lead on, O fi - ery pil - lar; we fol - low yet with fears, but we shall come re -
 joic - ing, though joy be born of tears. We are not lost, though wan - d'ring, for
 by your light we come, and we are still God's peo - ple. The jour - ney is our home.

The Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Nathan A. Russell

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

Sermon

Journey to the Wilderness

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

“Remove [the cross], as Pulliam had done, and Christianity was like any and every religion in the world: a population of supplicants begging respite from begrudging authority; harried believers ducking fate or dodging every-day evil; the weak negotiating a doomed trek through the wilderness; the sighted ripped of light and thrown into the perpetual dark of choicelessness. Without this sign, the believer’s life was confined to praising God and taking the hits. The praise was credit; the hits were interest due on a debt that could never be paid. Or, as Pulliam put it, no one knew when he had ‘graduated.’ But with it, in the religion in which this sign was paramount and foundational, well, life was a whole other matter.”

–Toni Morrison, *Paradise*

Hymn of Communion

*When We Are Tested*²

MYRRH-BEARING MARY

When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone, fam - ished for
 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief, plead - ing for
 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls, trad - ing the
 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night, sort - ing and

bread when the world of - fers stone, nour - ish us, God, by your
 paths marked by cer - tain be - lief, lift us to love you be -
 truth for the power to con - trol, teach us to wor - ship and
 sift - ing the wrong from the right, Sav - ior, sur - round us with

word and your way, food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 yond sign and test, trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 praise on - ly you, seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 cir - cles of care, an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Invitation to Commune

Lauri Warfield

Prayer at the Table

Sue Pray

Words of Institution

Lauri Warfield

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 449

*Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*³ (Back cover)

EBENEZER

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Toccatina on "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (Gordon Young)

Sol M. Rizzato

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

¹WORDS: Nathan A. Russell, 2026; MUSIC: Hans L. Hassler, 1601

²WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1996; MUSIC: Alfred V. Fedak, 1989

³WORDS: Herman G. Stuempfle, 1993; MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams, 1897

Je - sus, tempt - ed in the des - ert, lone - ly, hun - gry, filled with dread:
 Je - sus, tempt - ed at the tem - ple, high a - bove its an - cient wall:
 Je - sus, tempt - ed on the moun - tain by the lure of vast do - main:
 When we face temp - ta - tion's pow - er, lone - ly, strug - gling, filled with dread,

"Use your pow'r," the tempt - er tells him. "Turn these bar - ren rocks to bread!"
 "Throw your - self from loft - y tur - ret; an - gels wait to break your fall!"
 "Fall be - fore me! Be my serv - ant! Glo - ry, fame, you're sure to gain!"
 Christ, who knew the tempt - er's ho - ur, come and be our liv - ing bread.

"Not a - lone by bread," he an - swers, "can the hu - man heart be filled.
 Je - sus shuns such emp - ty mar - vels, feats that fick - le crowds re - quest:
 Je - sus sees the daz - zling vi - sion, turns his eyes an - oth - er way:
 By your grace, pro - tect, pre - serve us lest we fall, your trust be - tray.

On - ly by the Word that calls us is our deep - est hun - ger stilled!"
 "God, whose grace pro - tects, pre - serves us, we must nev - er vain - ly test."
 "God a - lone de - serves our hom - age! God a - lone will I o - bey!"
 Yours, a - bove all oth - er voi - ces, be the Word we hear, o - bey."

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Weekly Calendar

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

Sunday, February 22

- 11:00am: Two Or More: *Leaning In and Letting Go*, Lenten devotional {Gibbens Room}
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere

Tuesday, February 24

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 11:00am-1:00pm: Labyrinth & Lunch
- 7:00-8:30pm: Christian Education Committee Mtg. (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 25

- 5:00-8:00pm: "Pasta at the Pastor's"

Thursday, February 26

- 11:00am-1:30pm: Pastoral Relations Committee Mtg. (Hybrid)



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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