



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

## Worship of God

March 22, 2026, 9:30am: Fifth 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

From 'Variations on Morning Star' (Margaret Vardell Sandresky)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"The desert was the apotheosis of all deserts, huge, standing to the sky for what looked like eternity in all directions."

—Stephen King, *The Gunslinger*

Hymn of Praise

*Spirit, Working in Creation*<sup>1</sup>

SUN AND THUNDER



Spir - it, work - ing in cre - a - tion, bring - ing or - der out of strife:  
Spir - it, speak - ing through the proph - ets so the voice of God was heard,  
Spir - it, breathed up - on dis - ci - ples, giv - ing peace where there was fear:  
Spir - it, wind and flame, em - pow'r - ing, fear - less wit - ness to the lost:



come a - mong your gath - ered peo - ple, giv - ing har - mo - ny and life.  
come, in - spire, a - lert your - peo - ple to this day's pro - phet - ic word.  
come a - mong us, touch us, send us, mak - ing Je - sus' pres - ence near.  
come u - nite, re - new your won - ders; give us faith to count the cost.

Invocation

Jan Moore

Hymn of Prayer 254

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

TRENTHAM

Prayers of the People

God of the journey...  
Breathe on us.

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

*Hear Now the Prayers We Offer*<sup>2</sup>

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

Pam Sheetz

Offertory

From 'Variations on Morning Star' (Sandresky)

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology 633 v. 2

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

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

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...  
Thanks be to God!

Nathan A. Russell

Sermon

*Journey through the Valley*

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Only after disaster can we be resurrected. It's only after you've lost everything that you're free to do anything. Nothing is static, everything is evolving, everything is falling apart."

—Chuck Palahniuk, *Fight Club*

Hymn of Communion 384

*Here at Thy Table, Lord*

BREAD OF LIFE

Invitation to Commune

Mark Mathes

Prayer at the Table

Debbie Walker

Words of Institution

Mark Mathes

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship

*On This Strange, Bewildering Landscape*<sup>3</sup>

JEFFERSON

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

From 'Variations on Morning Star' (Sandresky)  
And all the people said... **AMEN!**

Sol M. Rizzato

Today's artwork is *The Valley of Dry Bones* (1947) by Colin McCahon. While McCahon was not directly involved in World War II, the conflict left him with a keen social conscience and a sense of mission. In response, he created a series of religious paintings in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The prophet Ezekiel's words, and the bones strewn across the New Zealand landscape, are a plea for the revival of spirituality in a country broken by war.

<sup>1</sup>WORDS: John Richards, 1978; MUSIC: James E. Clemens, 2015

<sup>2</sup>WORDS: Nathan A. Russell, 2026; MUSIC: Hans Leo Hassler, 1601

<sup>3</sup>WORDS: Nathan A. Russell, 2025; MUSIC: Alexander Johnson's *Tennessee Harmony*, 1818

On this strange, be-wil-d'ring land-scape, doubts con-fuse and fears as-sail.  
 Scrip-ture tells how faith-ful peo-ple suf-fered vio-lence on their way:  
 Let us learn from scores of trau-ma that have swept our strength a-way.  
 As we face op-pres-sive for-ces steal-ing joy and kill-ing life,  
 Ter-ror reigns through ty-rants' schem-ing; un-checked threat-'ning powers pre-vail.  
 con-quired, ex-iled from their home-land, mocked for songs of God's new day.  
 As we stu-dy trou-bled his-t'ry, may we find re-solve to-day.  
 we must shun weak res-ig-na-tion as we seek to end all strife.  
 Though in-jus-tice still runs ramp-ant, in this so-called "gold-en age,"  
 Ev-en Je-sus Christ was tor-tured: cru-ci-fix-ion was the cost  
 God is with us in this strug-gle as we stand a-gainst the foe;  
 Grace cre-ates a full-er sto-ry; faith sings pro-mise in the night;  
 we will sing our praise and pro-test giv-ing voice to prayer and rage.  
 borne by one who preached God's fa-vor for the last, the least, the lost.  
 speak-ing truth and bring-ing jus-tice; last-ing peace God will be-stow.  
 hope ig-nites a fresh be-gin-ning; love dis-arms the force of might.

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Weekly Calendar

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

### Sunday, March 22

- 11:00am: Two Or More: *Leaning In and Letting Go*, Lenten devotional {Gibbens Room}
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere
- 7:00pm: Maggie Johns Piano Recital
- 11:59pm: All Easter Flower orders due

### Tuesday, March 24

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 11:0am-1:00pm: Labyrinth & Lunch in the Youth Room and Elders' Conf. Room

### Thursday, March 26

- 7:00-8:30pm: Book Study with Sue Pray and *Love Wins* (Zoom)



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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