



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

Worship of God

July 26, 2026, 9:30am: Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus (arr. Teresa Wilhelmi)

Maggie Johns

Meditation for Preparation

"If I were going to begin practicing the presence of God for the first time today, it would help to begin by admitting the three most terrible truths of our existence: that we are so ruined, and so loved, and in charge of so little."

—Anne Lamott, *Help Thanks Wow*



Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ing, joy of heaven to earth come down;
 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 Peace, a - bun - dant grace, ful - fill - ing, mer - cies dai - ly new we find;
 Fin - ish, then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be,

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom - ised rest;
 sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er more thy tem - ples leave.
 pa - tient God, O make us will - ing to be - stow such gifts in kind.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 take a - way our love of sin - ning; al - pha and o - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 Waste - ful love that thou hast giv - en, free - ly serv - ing all hu - man kind.
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in hea - ven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of our faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and we praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 As we count our - selves for - giv - en, may we so give love di - vine.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

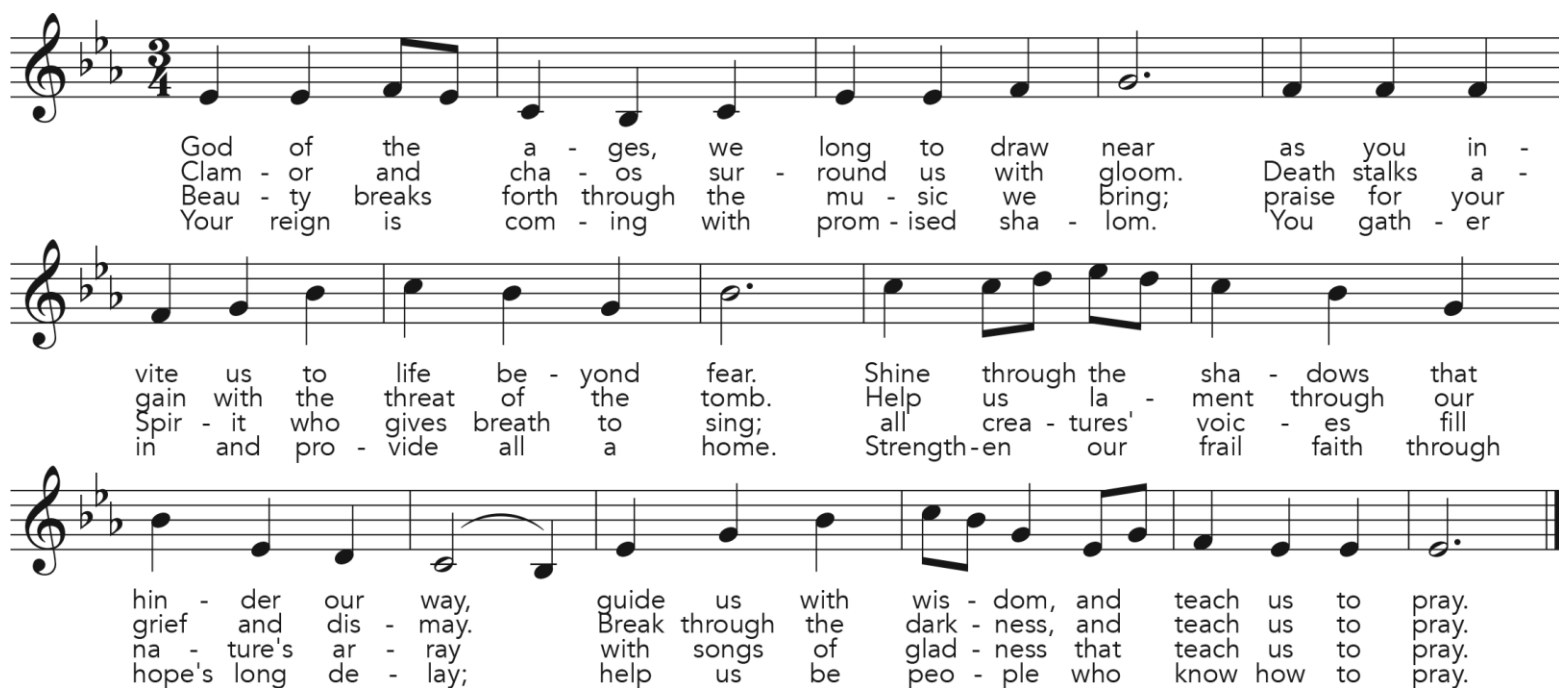
Invocation

Mark Mathes

Hymn of Prayer

God of the Ages²

SLANE



God of the a - ges, we long to draw near as you in -
 Clam - or and cha - os sur - round us with gloom. Death stalks a -
 Beau - ty breaks forth through the mu - sic we bring; praise for your
 Your reign is com - ing with the prom - ised sha - lom. You gath - er

vite us to life be - yond fear. Shine through the sha - dows that
 gain with the who threat of the tomb. Help us through the la - ment through our
 Spir - it and pro - vide breath all a sing; home. Strength-en our voic - es fill
 in and all a home. Strength-en our frail faith through

hin - der our way, guide us with wis - dom, and teach us to pray.
 grief and dis - may. Break through the dark - ness, and teach us to pray.
 na - ture's ar - ray. with songs of glad - ness, and teach us to pray.
 hope's long de - lay; help us be peo - ple who know how to pray.

Prayers of the People

God of the ages... Teach us to pray.

Pam Sheetz

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

*Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ*³

SURSUM CORDA



E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ, we know not how to ask or what to say;
We on - ly know our need, as deep as life, and on - ly you can teach us how to pray.

Invitation to Stewardship

Debby Willets

Offertory

Jesus Loves Me (arr. Brendlinger)

Maggie Johns

Doxology

*For the Life That You Have Given*⁴

PLEADING SAVIOR



For the life that you have-giv - en, for the love in Christ made known, with these fruits of
time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es;
heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

The Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Nathan A. Russell

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

Sermon

Come on, Holy Spirit

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"My belief is that when you're telling the truth, you're close to God. If you say to God, 'I am exhausted and depressed beyond words, and I don't like You at all right now, and I recoil from most people who believe in You,' that might be the most honest thing you've ever said. If you told me you had said to God, 'It is all hopeless, and I don't have a clue if You exist, but I could use a hand,' it would almost bring tears to my eyes, tears of pride in you, for the courage it takes to get real-really real. It would make me want to sit next to you at the dinner table."

—Anne Lamott, *Help Thanks Wow*

Hymn of Communion 420

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

Invitation to Commune

Pam Sheetz

Prayer at the Table

Lauri Warfield

Words of Institution

Pam Sheetz

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 489

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Prelude X, Les Collines d'Anacapri (Debussy)
And all the people said... **AMEN!**

Maggie Johns

Today's artwork is *Holy Spirit Prayer* by St. Augustine by Jen Norton.

¹WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1743, vv. 1-3, 5; Stephanie Ray, 2010, v. 4 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

²WORDS: Nathan A. Russell, 2026; MUSIC: Irish melody

³WORDS: Frank von Christerson, 1974; MUSIC: Alfred Morton Smith, 1941

⁴WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1987; MUSIC: Levitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830/1831

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Weekly Calendar

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

Sunday, July 26

- 11:00am: Two Or More: Scripture discussion group {Gibbens Room}
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere
- July 26-31: Pastor Nathan at Preaching Workshop

Tuesday, July 28

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



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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