



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

## Worship of God

May 12, 2024; 9:30am: Ascension Sunday

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

Meditation for Preparation

“Ascension Day is the day the present Lord became absent, which may be why it is the most forgotten feast day of the church year. Who wants to celebrate being left behind? Who wants to mark the day that Jesus went out of this world, never to be seen again? Hungry as we are for the presence of God, the one thing we do not need is a day to remind us of God's absence.”

—Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Day We Were Left Behind*

Hymn of Praise

*Praise to the God Who Reigns*<sup>1</sup>

DIADEMATA

Praise to the God who reigns, who moves us toward new life.  
 Praise to the ris - en Christ, who now as - cends a - bove  
 Praise to the Ho - ly Dove, the Spir - it soar - ing free,  
 Praise to the One - In - Three, who bless - es us with grace

Ad - ven - ture waits, let us now take the path to end all strife.  
 and gives us pow'r to face this hour, to act in deeds of love.  
 who sends us out with made new and just; a - cross the land and sea.  
 to dare a world made new and just; a sum - mons to em - brace.

This jour - ney will be long, and doubt can make us fear,  
 This wit - ness is our joy; it calls us to each day.  
 We see a fu - ture dawn; hor - i - zons o - pen wide.  
 As we take steps from here, let faith re - new our aim

yet we will trust that God is good; the HO - LY ONE is here.  
 Let us be a - gents of good news as Christ leads on the way.  
 By stars of night or of camp - fire bright, the Spir - it is our guide.  
 to seek the reign of God on earth, God's mis - sion to pro - claim.

Invocation

Kimberly Wilhelm

Hymn of Prayer 463

*Renew Your Church*

ALL IS WELL

Prayers of the People

Nancy Walker

God of renewal...

**Let our hearts with love be stirred.**

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

*Although Our Lord Has Left Us*<sup>2</sup>

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN

Al - though our Lord has left us, he leaves us not a - lone. As -  
 Christ is a - live and pres - ent - ing, and makes us all a - kin; in  
 Christ brings, by his as - cend - ing, God's love to all the earth, a  
 cend - ed in - to heav - en, he makes our earth his home.  
 ev - 'ry hu - man be - ing he walks the world a - gain.  
 cos - mic new di - men - sion to ev - 'ry hu - man birth.

Invitation to Stewardship

Dan Clark

Offertory

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology 15

*Rejoice, You Pure in Heart*

MARION

Praise God who rules all worlds; the ris - en Christ a - dore.  
 Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!  
 Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.

The Reading

Luke 24:46-53

Nathan A. Russell

For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

*Absence Makes the Heart Grow... Joyful?*

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"You cannot miss what you have never known, which makes our sense of absence—and especially our sense of God's absence—the very best proof that we knew God once, and that we may know God again."

—Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Day We Were Left Behind*

Hymn of Communion 399

*O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near*

BELMONT

Invitation to Commune

Nancy Walker

Prayer at the Table

Gerald Western

Words of Institution

Nancy Walker

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 452

*Here I Am, Lord*

HERE I AM, LORD

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Sol M. Rizzato

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

Today's artwork is One is All by Evans Yegon of Kenya at <https://trueafricanart.com/>

Flowers in the sanctuary in front of the communion table are in honor of Glennis Covault.

<sup>1</sup>Words: Nathan A. Russell, 2024; Music: George Job Elvey, 1868

<sup>2</sup>Words: Fred Kaan, 1972; Music: Melchior Vulpius, 1609

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 12

- 11:00am: Reception for Glennis Covault in the Narthex
- 6:00pm: YouTube Premiere of Morning Worship

Tuesday, May 14

- 7:30-8:00am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 5:30-7:00pm: Elders Committee Mtg. (Hybrid)
- 7:00-8:30pm Board Meeting (Hybrid)

Thursday, May 16

- All-Church Social Hour (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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