



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

## Worship of God

December 1, 2024; 9:30am: First Sunday of Advent

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

*Choral* (Alice Sauvrezis)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"I am hopeful, not out of mere stubbornness, but out of an existential, concrete imperative."

—Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of Hope*

Hymn of Praise

*Long Years Had Zechariah Prayed'* (Reverse)

FOREST GREEN

Invocation

Debbie Walker

Hymn of Advent 128 v. 1

*One Candle Is Lit*

CRADLE SONG

Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night, our a hearts long to  
greet you, as ros - es, the light. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our  
vi - sion en - gage. One can - dle is lit for the hope oe the age.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Worship Committee

Hymn of Prayer

*Advent Begins in the Darkness of Night<sup>2</sup>*

RESCOV

Ad - vent be - gins in the dark - ness of night, wait - ing and  
Ad - vent be - gins with our dreams yet de - ferred. Love sounds ri -  
Ad - vent be - gins in op - pres - sion's do - main, marked by the  
Ad - vent goes on till the prom - ised dawn breaks, ty - rants are  
watch - ing for signs of a light, walk - ing in the faith that a path will ap -  
dic - u - lous; prayer seems ab - surd. But in the midst of life's cen - ter - less  
cries of con - fu - sion and pain. Yet hope is and kin - dled where jus - tice is  
top - pled, and God's dream a - wakes. Hope is per - fect - ed and faith is made  
pear, dar - ing to fol - low in spite of our fear.  
maze, we lift to - geth - er our pro - test of praise.  
done, mer - cy is nur - tured and peace is be - gun.  
sight. Love is our cen - ter and Christ is our light.

Prayers of the People

God who draws near...

Pam Sheetz

**Help us wait and watch for signs of a light.**

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

*Wait for the Lord<sup>B</sup>*

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong take heart.

Invitation to Stewardship Don Hange, Jr.

Offertory *Sonata No. 3: II. Andante espressivo* (Hedwige Chrétien) Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology *Among us Came the Word to Dwell*<sup>4</sup> LASST UNS ERFREUEN

A - mong us came this Word to dwell, the Word made flesh, Em-man-u - el! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Though in our sin we failed to see, still by this Word we are set free. Al-le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Reading Luke 1:5-19 Nathan A. Russell  
 For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...  
**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *Magnificent Advent: Hope* Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence  
 "Hope is not 'born' in community or in the individual; rather it finds itself in the middle of complex and multiple relationships, bringing its own energy, agency, and realities to those relationships... Hope joins us and we join Hope collectively, individually, and relationally in ways that expand the possibilities of our vision."  
-Joretta Marshall, *Collaborating Hope*

Hymn of Communion 399 *O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near* BELMONT

Invitation to Commune Pam Sheetz

Prayer at the Table Mark Mathes

Words of Institution Pam Sheetz

Invitation to Discipleship Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 129 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* TRURO

Benediction and Charge Nathan A. Russell

And all the people said... AMEN!



Long years had Zech - a - ri - ah prayed to see Mes - si - ah come;  
 E - liz - a - beth soon bore a son, and names the ba - by John.  
 The faith - ful - ness of God is sure, more sure than ris - ing sun;

still child - less, he de - spaired to see his own child bless his home.  
 His voice would have E - li - jah's pow'r, his life was God's a - lone.  
 God's prom - is - es shall be ful - filled when God's own time has run.

With news too good to com - pre - hend, the an - gel came to say:  
 John's words brought man - y wan - d'ers back to the fol - low God a - gain,  
 Though end - less to our mor - tal eyes the roll - ing years may seem.

"The son your wife in time will bear pre - pares Mes - si - ah's way."  
 and man - y hearts did he pre - pare to bring Mes - si - ah in.  
 At last God's king - dom shall break forth, more blest than we could dream.

Today's artwork is *Annunciation to Zechariah* by Lauren Wright Pittman | © A Sanctified Art LLC | Sanctifiedart.org.

<sup>1</sup>WORDS: Joy F. Patterson, 2011; MUSIC: English melody

<sup>2</sup>WORDS: David Bjorlin, 2017; MUSIC: Benjamin Brody, 2017

<sup>3</sup>WORDS: Ref. Taizé Community, 1984; MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

<sup>4</sup>WORDS: Chris Shelton, 2015; MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 1

- 11:00am: "Hanging of the Greens" and a light lunch by Hospitality Committee
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere
- 11:59pm: Deadline for Poinsettia Orders <https://www.waccelyria.org/poinsettias>

### Tuesday, December 3

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 5:30-6:30pm: Stewardship Committee Mtg. (Zoom)

### Wednesday, December 4

- 10:00-12:00pm: Just Values Planning 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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