



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

Worship of God

December 8, 2024; 9:30am: The Second 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

Variations on "Morning Star" 1. Trio (Margaret Sandresky)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"God chooses Mary, a young, unmarried woman—with little value as far as society is concerned—to be the conduit through which Love takes on flesh. 'Why me?' I can almost hear Mary's spiraling thoughts even before she knows the purpose of the angel's visit. And then the angel pronounces what is to come. I imagine Mary first confused, then nearly crushed by the weight of an impossible burden. How do I square this reading with the fact that Mary is favored by God?"

—Lauren Wright Pittman, *Artist of Favored One*

Hymn of Praise 119

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Invocation

Ken Oblak

Hymn of Advent 128 v. 2

One Candle is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare for a gift that com -
pels us with jus - tice to care. Our spir - its are rest - less till
sin and war cease. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Gerald Western & Lauri Warfield

Hymn of Prayer 133

Like a Child

LIKE A CHILD

Prayers of the People

God who comes to us as a child...
Help us receive all that love can conceive.

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

Wait for the Lord¹

WAIT FOR THE LORD

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

Invitation to Stewardship

Beth McKee

Offertory

Variations on "Morning Star" 2. Andante Moderato

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology

Among us Came the Word to Dwell²

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

A - mong us came the 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 1:26-38

Nathan A. Russell

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

Sermon

Magnificent Advent: Peace

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"A wild spiritual encircling needs to occur for Christ to appear, a violent wind around the womb of a woman who says yes to so much more than she knows at the time."

—Natalie Wigg-Stevenson, *Transgressive Devotion*

Hymn of Communion

Oh, How Shall I Receive You³

ST. THEODOLPH

Oh, how shall I re - ceive you, how meet thee on your way, bless'd hope of ev' - ry
 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you here to us. Your thirst for our sal -
 You ent - er Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good will, to bring an end to

na - tion, our soul's de - light and stay? O Je - sus, Je - sus, give us now
 va - tion pro - cured our lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that
 sad - ness and bid our fears be still. We wel - come you, our Sav - ior; come

by your own pure light to know what - e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.
 led you to em - brace, in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our trou - bled hu - man race.
 gath - er us to you, that in your light e - ter - nal our joy - ous home is true.

Invitation to Commune

Lauri Warfield

Prayer at the Table

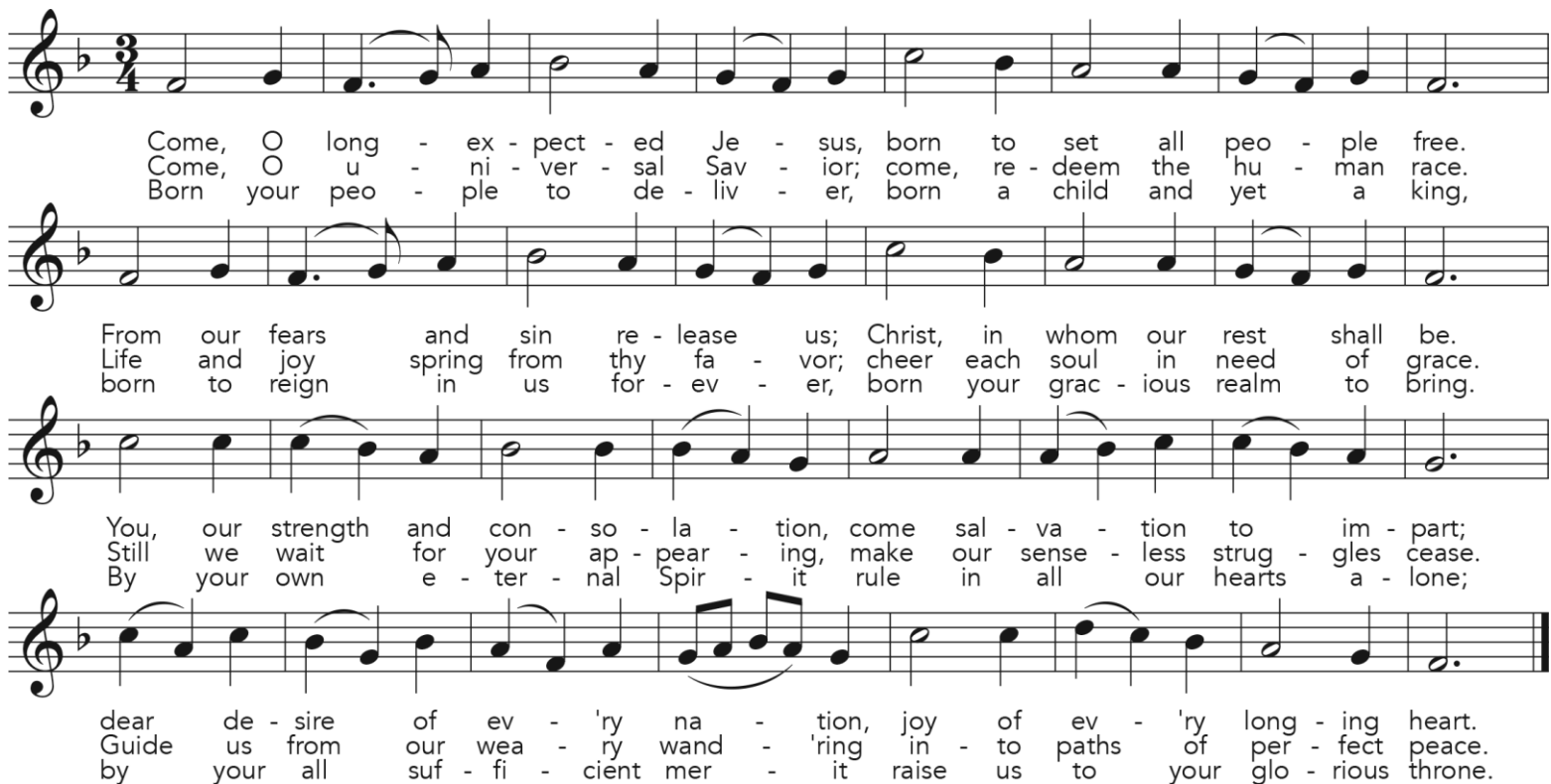
Debby Willets

Words of Institution

Lauri Warfield

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell



Come, O long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free.
 Come, O u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior; come, re - deem the hu - man race.
 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

From our fears and joy spring sin re - lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
 Life and to reign in from us thy fa - vor; cheer each soul in need of grace.
 born to reign in from us for - ev - er, born your grac - ious realm to bring.

You, our strength and con - so - la - tion, come sal - va - tion to im - part;
 Still we wait for your ap - pear - ing, make our sense - less strug - gles cease.
 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 Guide us from our wea - ry wand - 'ring in - to paths of per - fect peace.
 by your all suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

Variations on "Morning Star" 5. Toccata
 And all the people said... **AMEN!**

Sol M. Rizzato

Today's artwork is Favored One (2024) by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

¹WORDS: Ref. Taizé Community, 1984; MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

²WORDS: Chris Shelton, 2015; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623

³WORDS: P. Gerhardt, 1653; trans. A. T. Russell, 1851, MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1615

⁴WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744; MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 8

- 11:00am: Two Or More: Scripture discussion group (Gibbens Room)
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere

Tuesday December 10

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

Thursday, December 12

- 10:00-11:00am: All-Church Social Hour (Zoom)
- 3:45pm: Creation Care Gathering (theAlt Room)



We are thrilled that you are worshipping 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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