



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

## Worship of God

December 15, 2024; 9:30am: Third 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

*Elegy* (Brenda Portman)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"In winter it seems that the season of Spring will never come, and in both Advent and Lent it's the waiting that's hard, the in-between of divine promise and its fulfillment.... Most of us find ourselves dangling in this hiatus, which in the interval may seem a waste of time.... But 'the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.'"

—Luci Shaw, *God With Us*

Invocation

Sheila Smith

Hymn of Advent 128 v. 3

One Candle is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth, join an - gels in  
 danc - ing from heav - en to earth. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift  
 high thank - ful praise. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Debbie Walker, Jane Hutson, &amp; Marilyn Bauer

Hymn of Prayer

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper<sup>1</sup>

JEFFERSON

Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way,  
 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,  
 Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.  
 seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view:  
 Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Prayers of the People

God, who speaks with a whisper...  
 Teach our hearts to welcome you.

Sue Pray

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>2</sup>

WAIT FOR THE LORD



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

Invitation to Stewardship

Mary Siwierka

Offertory

*Andante* (Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel)

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology

*Among us Came the Word to Dwell*<sup>3</sup>

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 1:39-45

Nathan A. Russell

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

*Magnificent Advent: Joy*

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"With God there is joy, and from [God] it comes down and seizes spirit, soul, and body. And where this joy has seized a person, it reaches out around itself, it pulls others along, it bursts through closed doors. There is a kind of joy that knows nothing at all of the pain, distress, and anxiety of the heart. But it cannot last; it can only numb for a time. The joy of God has gone through the poverty of the manger and the distress of the cross; therefore it is invincible and irrefutable."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger*

Hymn of Communion 132

*When God Is a Child*

MOON BEAMS

Invitation to Commune

Sue Pray

Prayer at the Table

Pam Sheetz

Words of Institution

Sue Pray

Invitation to Discipleship

Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 143

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

Benediction and Charge

Nathan A. Russell

Postlude

*Toccatina on "Joy to the World" (Brenda Portman)\**  
And all the people said... **AMEN!**

Sol M. Rizzato

\*In honor and celebration of Pastor Roger Bruns, Robert Cooper, and Katrina Barrette. "May we find joy amid life's complexities and challenges. That's when joy is the most radiant." -Pastor Roger Bruns

Today's artwork is *Mary and Elizabeth* (2018) Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

<sup>1</sup>WORDS: Mary Louise Bringle, 2005; MUSIC: Alexander Johnson's *Tennessee Harmony*, 1818

<sup>2</sup>WORDS: Ref. Taizé Community, 1984; MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

<sup>3</sup>WORDS: Chris Shelton, 2015; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623

### 2024 POINSETTIAS

**GIVEN BY:**

Sol Rizzato  
Nathan A. Russell

**IN HONOR OF:**

John L. Edwards & The Rev. Dr. Jason Haddox  
WACC Staff & Lay Leaders

**GIVEN BY:**

Diane Clement  
Pat Flory & Kevin Brooks  
Jane Hutson  
Kim Jorgensen  
Dick Lee  
Rachel Long & Julia Mattox  
Jan Moore  
Mary Lou & Alan Petersen  
Bob Rieth  
Kimberly S. Wilhelm  
Debby Willets

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Leonard Clement  
Shirley Louise Brooks  
Brenda Keenan, Linda Borthwick, My Family  
Bert Fitzgerald Sr., Ken Sooy, Mario Caruso, Arnt Jorgensen, Ruth Jorgensen, & Donna Ramsey  
Linda Lee  
Janet Long  
Robert Moore  
Karen Wehman, Bob Hancock & Our Parents  
Bob & Lois Rieth and Red & Peg Stevens  
Joan & Bob Wilhelm; Wally & Sandy Smith  
Jean & Don Willets, Elaine & Ernest Schmittgen, Donald J. Willets, & Barbara Lloyd

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 15

- 11:00am: Two Or More: Scripture discussion group {Gibbens Room}
- 3:00-5:00pm: Holiday Party at Pastor Nathan's house
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere

Tuesday, December 17

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 3:00-4:30pm: Outreach Committee Mtg. (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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