



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

Worship of God

December 22, 2024; 9:30am: Fourth 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

Prelude on "Savior of the Nations, Come" (Margaret Sandresky)

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."

—Madeleine L'Engle, *Madeleine L'Engle Herself*

Hymn of Praise 140

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

SHEFFIELD

Invocation

Bob Rieth

Hymn of Advent 128 v. 4

One Candle is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play, where e - vil is
 ban - ished and faith takes the day, a babe in a man - ger to
 fool the world's eyes One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Nancy Walker & Lill McNeal

Hymn of Prayer 130

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

Prayers of the People

God of loving covenant...
Help us remember your promises.

Debby Willets

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

Lauri Warfield

Offertory

In Quiet Mood (Florence Price)

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology

Among us Came the Word to Dwell²

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Among us came the Word to dwell, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel! Alleluia! Alleluia! Though in our sin we failed to see, still by this Word we are set free. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Reading

Luke 1:46-56

Nathan A. Russell

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Magnificent Advent: Love

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Having failed in all things / I enter a new age / seeing the old ways as toys, / the houses of a stage / painted and long forgot; / and I find love and rage. / Rage for the world as it is / but for what it may be / more love now than last year and always less self-pity / since I know in a clearer light / the strength of the mystery."

—Muriel Rukeyser, *The Place in the Ways*

Hymn of Communion

Canticle of the Turning³

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my
 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your
 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the
 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us fast: God's

spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
 mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
 king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from the throne. The
 mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This

fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn, so from
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can nev - er earn; there are
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us bound, till the

east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 ta - bles spread, ev - ery mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fire of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -
 way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Invitation to Commune		Debby Willets
Prayer at the Table		Nancy Walker
Words of Institution		Debby Willets
Invitation to Discipleship		Nathan A. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 142	<i>People, Look East</i>	BESANÇON
Benediction and Charge		Nathan A. Russell
Postlude	<i>People, Look East (Kristina Langlois)</i> And all the people said... AMEN!	Sol M. Rizzato

Today's artwork is *Mary's Song* (2018) 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: Scripture text; paraphrased Rory Cooney, MUSIC: Irish melody

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 22

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

Tuesday, December 24

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 7:30pm: Christmas Eve Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25-January 1

- Church Office closed for the holidays



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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