

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

# Worship of God

January 5, 2025; 9:30am: Epiphany of the Lord

Chiming the Hour The Atwood Carillon

Greeting The Spirit of God is with you... Nathan A. Russell And also with you!

Nathan A. Russell

Call to Worship Lift up your hearts... We lift them to the Lord!

Prelude The First Noel (arr. Sally DeFord) Jason Falkofsky

### Meditation for Preparation

"People who believe they are ignorant of nothing have neither looked for, nor stumbled upon, the boundary between what is known and unknown in the universe... We are stardust brought to life, then empowered by the universe to figure itself out—and we have only just begun."

-Neil deGrasse Tyson, Astrophysics for People in a Hurry

Hymn of Praise 176

Sing of God Made Manifest

SALZBURG

Invocation

Debbie Walker

Hymn of Prayer

Wise Ones Came Journeying<sup>1</sup>

**BONNIE GEORGE CAMPBELL** 



Prayers of the People

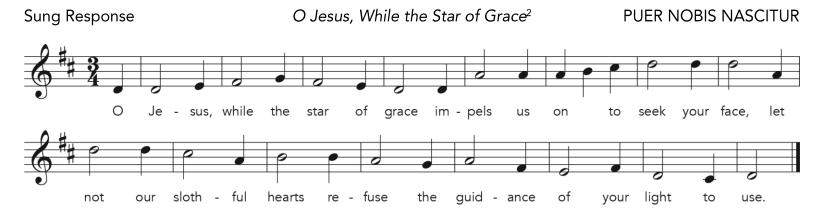
Giver of the light...

Help us to seek your peace.

Nancy Walker

#### 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.



Offertory

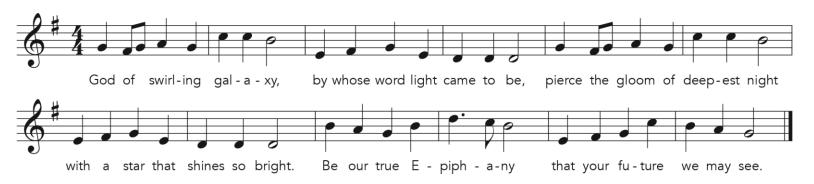
What Child Is This (arr. by Linda Hartman)

Jason Falkofsky

Doxology

God of Swirling Galaxy<sup>3</sup>

DIX



The Reading

Matthew 2:1-12
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...

Nathan A. Russell

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Follow That Star

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

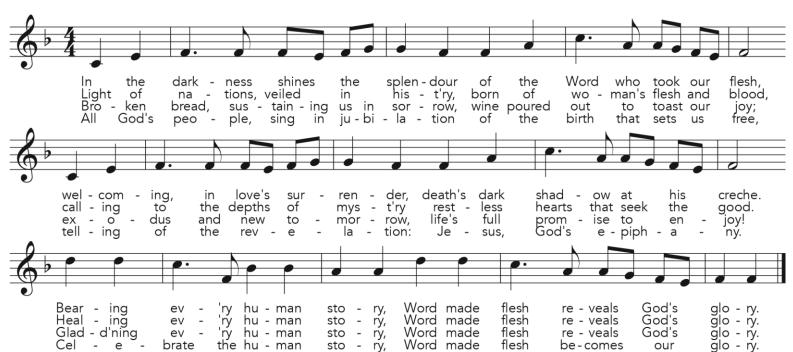
"The poetry of Genesis centers us with this. While God created us from the ash and dust of the earth, God then blew divine breath into us. This same breath created the stars—what ancient people saw as "heavenly beings" filled with transcendent, pure, and powerful beauty. The illumined meaning of the poem uncovers a beautiful truth. We are made of earth and we are made of heaven. Ash and starlight woven together."

-Arianne Braithwaite Lehn, Ash and Starlight

Hymn of Communion

In the Darkness Shines the Splendour<sup>4</sup>

IRBY



Prayer at the Table Mark Mathes

Words of Institution Nancy Walker

Invitation to Discipleship Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 172 We Three Kings KINGS OF ORIENT

Benediction and Charge Nathan A. Russell

Postlude March of the Kings Jason Falkofsky

And all the people said...

## AMEN!

Today's artwork is *Shining Hope* by Lauren Wright Pittman © A Sanctified Art LLC | Sanctifiedart.org The Rev. Pittman writes of her artwork, "After a long journey, the star hovers, suspended over the wise men's destination. Shining Hope images the joy of this moment and reminds us to revel in wonder of the journey itself."

<sup>1</sup>WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1996; MUSIC: Scottish melody

<sup>2</sup>WORDS: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.; MUSIC: Trier ms. 15<sup>th</sup> cent; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609

<sup>3</sup>WORDS: Nathan A. Russell, 2025; MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

<sup>4</sup>WORDS: Bernadette Gasslein, 1992; MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849

#### **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

## Sunday, January 5

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

# Monday, January 6

• 10:00-11:00am: Worship Committee Mtg. (Hybrid)

# Tuesday, January 7

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 11:30-1:00pm: Church Life & Growth Committee Mtg.

# Thursday, January 9

• 10:00-11:00am: 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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