



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...  
**And also with you!**

Nathan A. Russell

Call to Worship

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

Nathan A. Russell

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

Wise ones came jour - ney - ing, once, long a - go, cam - el hooves  
 Wise are the trav - el - ers, led to move on fol - low - ing  
 Wise are each one of us look - ing for change, star - gaz - er  
 Wise ones keep jour - ney - ing all through their days, bring - ing their

swirl - ing the sand dune and snow, gold in the sad - dle - bag,  
 signs where the Christ light had shone, fac - ing the des - erts and  
 peo - ple, re - spect - ing the strange, in - ner and out - er worlds  
 gifts to the source of their praise, risk - ing the prom - ise with

myrrh in the jar, in - cense to hon - or the Child of the star.  
 cross - ing the lines, heed - ing no lim - its that cul - ture de - fines.  
 o - pen to light, cent - ered on see - ing the real and the right.  
 all they hold dear, seek - ing God's peace at the door of the year.

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.**

Sung Response

*O Jesus, While the Star of Grace<sup>2</sup>*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us on to seek your face, let  
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of your light to use.

Invitation to Stewardship

Kimberly Wilhelm

Offertory

*What Child Is This* (arr. by Linda Hartman)

Jason Falkofsky

Doxology

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

DIX

God of swirl-ing gal - a - xy, by whose word light came to be, pierce the gloom of deep-est night  
with a star that shines so bright. Be our true E - piph - a - ny that your fu - ture we may see.

The Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Nathan A. Russell

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

**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

In the dark - ness shines the splen - dour of the Word who took our flesh,  
Light of na - tions, veiled in his - t'ry, born of wo - man's flesh and blood,  
Bro - ken bread, sus - tain - ing us in sor - row, wine poured out to toast our joy;  
All God's peo - ple, sing in ju - bi - la - tion of the birth that sets us free,  
wel - com - ing, in love's sur - ren - der, death's dark shad - ow at his creche.  
call - ing to the depths of mys - t'ry, rest - less hearts that seek the good.  
ex - o - dus and new to - mor - row, life's full prom - ise to en - joy!  
tell - ing of the rev - e - la - tion: Je - sus, God's e - piph - a - ny.  
Bear - ing ev - 'ry hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh re - veals God's glo - ry.  
Heal - ing ev - 'ry hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh re - veals God's glo - ry.  
Glad - d'ning ev - 'ry hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh re - veals God's glo - ry.  
Cel - e - brate the hu - man sto - ry, Word made flesh be - comes our glo - ry.

Invitation to Commune

Nancy Walker

Prayer at the Table		Mark Mathes
Words of Institution		Nancy Walker
Invitation to Discipleship		Nathan A. Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 172	<i>We Three Kings</i>	KINGS OF ORIENT
Benediction and Charge		Nathan A. Russell
Postlude	<i>March of the Kings</i> And all the people said... <b>AMEN!</b>	Jason Falkofsky

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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