



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

Worship of God

January 12, 2025; 9:30am: Baptism 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

Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"There is always an enormous temptation in all of life to diddle around making itsy-bitsy friends and meals and journeys for itsy-bitsy years on end. It is so self-conscious, so apparently moral, simply to step aside from the gaps where the creeks and winds pour down, saying, I never merited this grace, quite rightly, and then to sulk along the rest of your days on the edge of rage. I won't have it. The world is wilder than that in all directions, more dangerous and bitter, more extravagant and bright. We are making hay when we should be making whoopee; we are raising tomatoes when we should be raising Cain, or Lazarus."

—Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech - oes through the des - ert still,
 "Bear the fruit re - pen - tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth and love.
 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro - claimed sal - va - tion near,
 call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:
 Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.
 and his time - less warn - ings hold words of hope to all who hear.
 "Turn from sin and will to be bap - tized cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
 Soon the Lord and will to come in power, burn - ing clean the thresh - ing floor:
 So we dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,
 Quit - ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.
 then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store.
 till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

Invocation

Marty Rowe

Hymn of Prayer

Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering²

RENDEZ ADIEU

Mark how the Lamb of God's self - of - fering our hu - man sin - ful - ness takes on
 From this as - sur - ance of God's fa - vor Je - sus goes to the wil - der - ness,
 Grant us, O God, the strength and cour - age to live the faith our lips de - clare;
 In the birth - wa - ters of the Jor - dan as Je - sus is bap - tized by John.
 There to en - dure a time of test - ing that read - ied him to teach and bless.
 Bless us in our bap - tis - mal call - ing; Christ's roy - al priest - hood help us share.
 Hear how the voice from heav - en thun - ders, "Lo, this is my be - lov - ed Son."
 So we, by wa - ter and the Spir - it bap - tized in - to Christ's min - is - try,
 Turn us from ev - ery false al - le - giance, that we may trust in Christ a - lone:
 See how in dove - like form the Spir - it de - scends on God's An - noint - ed One.
 Are of - ten led to paths of ser - vice through maz - es of ad - ver - si - ty.
 Raise up in us a cho - sen peo - ple trans - formed by love to be your own.

Prayers of the People

God of strength and courage...
 Transform us by your love to be your own.

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 305

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Invitation to Stewardship

Ron Dauphin

Offertory

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology 365 v. 3

O How Deep Your Holy Wisdom

BEACH SPRING

O how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-i-mag-ined, all your ways! To your name be glo-ry,
hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise! We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-
washed and Spir-it-born. By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God trans-form!

The Reading

Luke 3:1-6, 15-23
For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...
Thanks be to God!

Nathan A. Russell

Sermon

The Word Comes in the Wilderness

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"Always in big woods when you leave familiar ground and step off alone into a new place there will be, along with the feelings of curiosity and excitement, a little nagging of dread. It is the ancient fear of the unknown, and it is your first bond with the wilderness you are going into. You are undertaking the first experience, not of the place, but of yourself in that place. It is an experience of our essential loneliness, for nobody can discover the world for anybody else. It is only after we have discovered it for ourselves that it becomes a common ground and a common bond, and we cease to be alone.

And the world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our feet, and learn to be at home."

–Wendell Berry, *The Unforeseen Wilderness*

Hymn of Communion 419

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

HOLY MANNA

Invitation to Commune

Sue Pray

Prayer at the Table		Pam Sheetz
Words of Institution		Sue Pray
Invitation to Discipleship		Nathan Russell
Hymn of Discipleship 633	<i>Lead On, O Cloud of Presence</i>	LANCASHIRE
Benediction and Charge		Nathan A. Russell
Postlude		Sol M. Rizzato

And all the people said...
AMEN!

Today's artwork is *Baptism of Jesus* (2021) by Liz Valente. Liz Valente is a liturgical artist, wife and mother of 4 children; she has a master's degree in architecture and urbanism and is a professor of drawing for training architects at higher education levels. She works on several artistic fronts, such as theatre, visual arts and music, having created the album "Pipa Amarela", released in 2013. She has worked with teenagers and young people at the Presbyterian Church of Viçosa, where her husband serves as a pastor. In her spare time, she writes prayers with accompanying art images and shares them on Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>

1WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985; MUSIC: Joseph Parry, 1876

2WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 12

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

Monday, January 13

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

Tuesday, January 14

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



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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