

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

Worship of God

January 26, 2025; 9:30am: The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Chiming the Hour The Atwood Carillon

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

And also with you!

Call to Worship Lift up your hearts... Nathan A. Russell

We lift them to the Lord!

Prelude Divertimento en Tema Antiguo (Ramón Noble) Sol M. Rizzato

Meditation for Preparation

"We are all implicated when we allow other people to be mistreated. An absence of compassion can corrupt the decency of a community, a state, a nation. Fear and anger can make us vindictive and abusive, unjust and unfair, until we all suffer from the absence of mercy and we condemn ourselves as much as we victimize others. The closer we get to mass incarceration and extreme levels of punishment, the more I believe it's necessary to recognize that we all need mercy, we all need justice, and-perhaps-we all need some measure of unmerited grace."

-Bryan Stevenson, Just Mercy



Invocation Megan Rowe

Hymn of Prayer 506

Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill

Lauri Warfield

HEALER

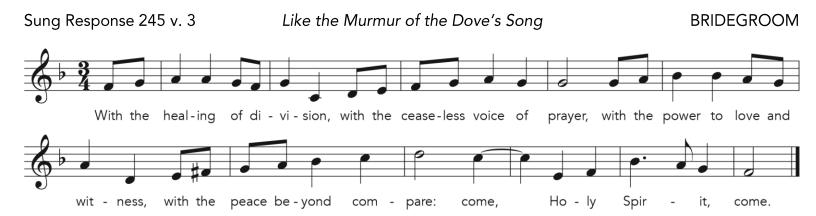
Prayers of the People

Healer of our every ill...

Grace us with your peace and gladness.

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

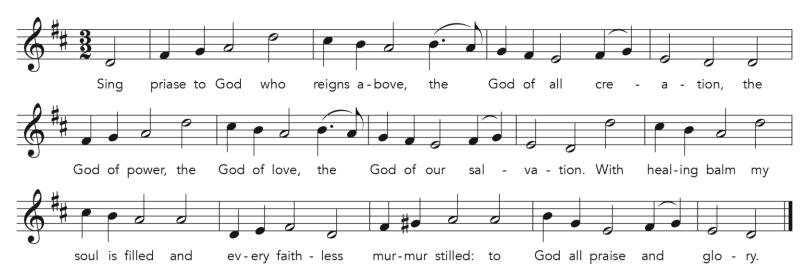
There Is No Shadow (Brenda Portman)

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology 6 v. 1

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART



The Reading

Luke 4:38-44 For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

An Appeal for Mercy

Nathan A. Russell

Nathan A. Russell

Discipline of Silence

"All the wickedness in the world which man may do or think is no more to the mercy of God than a live coal dropped in the sea."

-Madeleine L'Engle, A Live Coal in the Sea



Invitation to Commune

Lauri Warfield

Prayer at the Table **Debby Willets**

Words of Institution Lauri Warfield

Invitation to Discipleship Nathan A. Russell

Hymn of Discipleship 668 For the Healing of the Nations **CWM RHONDDA**

Benediction and Charge Nathan A. Russell

Postlude Sol M. Rizzato Trumpet Tune in D Major (Rowen Erickson)

And all the people said... AMEN!

Today's artwork is Jesus Mural of Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace, a 20th century mural in Chicago, Illinois. This mural places Jesus centerstage with arms outstretched, welcoming all people to him. Incorporated into the figure of Jesus is a mosaic quality that undoubtedly represents his multifaceted nature as well as the ability for all peoples to claim him as their own. Surrounding him is a diverse group holding hands in unity. One of the scripture passages listed for this image gives us the second greatest commandment: "to love one's neighbor as oneself." In loving one another, we stimulate peace, faith, and hope for the war-torn and unjust world in which we live. This painting reminds us that it is in our love for one another—a love that seeks equality and justice for all—that we show true, deep, and abiding love for God as well.

¹WORDS: Ruth Duck, 2018; MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

²WORDS: Richard Leach, 2004; MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1996

Today's Service Music:

Mexican composer Ramón Noble (1925–1999), served as the associate director of the Conservatorio Nacional de Música, in Mexico City. His compositions include themes of Mexican nationalism, as well as folk tunes. The Divertimento en Tema Antiquo (1964), features "Canciones de Campo" (trans. "field songs"), folk songs reflecting the lives of rural farm workers and the nature of hard labor.

Wisconsin native Brenda Portman (b. 1980), wrote There Is No Shadow (2021), in memory of a close friend. Her prescribed registrations for the organist call for a "lush, ethereal palette." In her program notes for There Is No Shadow, she writes, "[even in] darkness, sickness or pain – only light, love, and joy remain eternal."

Even and especially in times of darkness, sometimes art is produced as a bold act of resistance and celebration. Wisconsin native Rowen Erikson (b. 2006) wrote her Trumpet Tune in D Major (2024), in celebration of her transition; the perseverance it requires, and the unthinkable beauty that stems from the journey. She continues to be a beacon of light and leadership for her transgender siblings in the organ and church music professions.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 26

- 11:00am: Becoming WACC: Speaking Christian
- 6:00pm: YouTube Online Worship Premiere

Tuesday, January 28

- 7:30-8:30am: Upper Room Devotional Hour (Zoom)
- 7:00-8:30pm: Christian Education Committee Mtg. (Zoom)

Saturday, February 1

3:00-5:00pm: Viewing of the Movie "The Legacy of Black Wallstreet" in the WACC Fellowship Hall



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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