



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

Nathan A. Russell

Call to Worship

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

Nathan A. Russell

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*



Christ is the truth, the way, the end-less light of life. Christ  
Christ is the liv-ing bread and source of grace out-poured; Christ  
Christ sends the Spir-it of now, that we may all be one; Christ  
Christ is the gift of love, for-give-ness, joy, and grace, that

shares the strug-gles of our day, our earth-ly joy and strife. Re-  
deep-est hun-gers shall be fed, our and life-will joy be re-stored. All  
peo-ple join-ing hands in love that jus-tice will be done. The  
all may live in u-ni-ty and hope in ev-'ry place. We

deem-ing what thirst is re-lost, and by heal-ing hu-man pain, Christ  
those who thirst shall lie down, in peace be-side the ter-ribled. The  
li-on shall lie down, in peace be-side the lamb. The  
go where Je-sus led when oth-ers' pain we bear; Re-

walks the val-ley of the cross, that all may rise a-gain.  
good shall wel-come of the one voice, the jus-tice God has willed.  
might-y shall lay down their crowns, be-fore the great Am.  
spon-ding to our neigh-bors' needs, Christ's cross and crown we share.

Invocation

Megan Rowe

Hymn of Prayer 506

*Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill*

HEALER

Prayers of the People

Healer of our every ill...

Lauri Warfield

**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.**

Sung Response 245 v. 3

*Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

BRIDEGROOM



With the heal-ing of di-vi-sion, with the cease-less voice of prayer, with the power to love and  
wit-ness, with the peace be-yond com-pare: come, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.

Invitation to Stewardship

Mark Mathes

Offertory

*There Is No Shadow* (Brenda Portman)

Sol M. Rizzato

Doxology 6 v. 1

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God who reigns a-bove, the God of all cre - a - tion, the  
 God of power, the God of love, the God of our sal - va - tion. With heal-ing balm my  
 soul is filled and ev-ery faith - less mur-mur stilled: to God all praise and glo - ry.

The Reading

Luke 4:38-44

Nathan A. Russell

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

*An Appeal for Mercy*

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*

Hymn of Communion

*The Bread We Break is Telling<sup>2</sup>*

JONATHAN'S TUNE

The bread we break is tell - ing a great - er bro - ken - ness: the bro - ken hu - man  
 The bread we break is tell - ing a mend - ing that will come, sur - pas - sing all the  
 As light breaks in - to rain - bows to show the storm is past, when bread broke, the dis -  
 na - ture that dared to build a cross, and cru - ci - fy the Sav - ior who  
 break - ing that hu - man hands have done. For ho - ly love has shat - tered the  
 ci - ples could see the Lord at last. O Je - sus, wel - come, wel - come! The  
 came to heal and mend; un - til he comes in glo - ry, we break the bread a - gain.  
 tomb where Je - sus lay, and he was known when shar - ing the bread at close of day.  
 burn - ing hearts were true; the bread and cup of bless - ing will make us one with you.

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	<i>For the Healing of the Nations</i>	CWM RHONDDA
Benediction and Charge		Nathan A. Russell
Postlude	<i>Trumpet Tune in D Major (Rowen Erickson)</i> And all the people said... <b>AMEN!</b>	Sol M. Rizzato

Today's artwork is Jesus Mural of Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace, a 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup>WORDS: Ruth Duck, 2018; MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

<sup>2</sup>WORDS: 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 Antiguo* (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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