

## **The Gathering of a People of God**

*National Avenue is a brave place for all people. We celebrate our diversity of race, creed, religion, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions. We extend a warm welcome to all this morning, especially those who are worshipping at National Avenue for the first time. Your presence enriches us in this time of celebration together~*

### **Prelude**

#### **Words of Gathering**

**Christie & Jonathan Lancaster**

God of grace,  
so much changes, so much fails,  
so much confuses and confounds us.  
**But your love continuously unfolds,  
your grace works its mysterious power.**

We are afraid for things that will not last.  
But your mercy lasts forever;  
your tender love for us holds steadfast.  
**So we gather in awe and gratitude.**

We open our hearts to your grace,  
that your hope for the world  
will find a home in us.  
Steadfast God, World-Maker,  
Change-Maker, Birth-Maker,  
all things come and go... but you.

**Loving Christ, Burgeoning Mercy, Healing Unfolding,  
fear may conquer many... but not you.**

Holy Spirit, Transforming Fire, Energy of Creation,  
so much slips through our fingers... but not yours.

**Holy One, as worlds change your love remains steadfast.**

You work your Creating power faithfully,  
making all things new.

[stevegarnaasholmes]

**May we find our part in this work.**

*Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit at the \* asterisks.*

#### **\*Gathering Hymn**

**Gather Us In**

**284**

#### **\*Lighting the Community Candle**

“For the rebels and the misfits, the black sheep and the outsiders.  
For the refugees, the orphans, the scapegoats, and the weirdos.  
For the uprooted, the abandoned, the shunned and invisible ones.  
May you recognize with increasing vividness  
that you know what you know.

May you give up your allegiances to self-doubt,  
meekness, and hesitation.

May you be willing to be unlikeable,  
and in the process be utterly loved.

May you be impervious to the wrongful projections of others,  
and may you deliver your disagreements with precision and grace.

May you see,

with the consummate clarity of nature moving through you,  
that your voice is not only necessary,  
but desperately needed to sing us out of this muddle.

May you feel shored up, supported, entwined,  
and reassured as you offer yourself and your gifts to the world.  
May you know for certain that even as you stand by yourself,  
you are not alone.”

— Belonging: Remembering Ourselves home by Toko-pa Turner

### **The Candle of Christ is lit.**

In this light,  
**we point to this moment burning in our midst to claim  
a hope leading us onward.  
May we go with courage.**

#### **\*Passing of the Peace**

O Peace, be my peace.

I breathe you in.

O Being, be my earth.

I rest in you.

O One, be my spirit.

I belong to you.

**O Wisdom, be my mind.**

**Keep me curious.**

O Grace, be my hope.

I trust in you.

O Yes, be my living and my dying.

Give me courage.

**O Love, be my heart.**

**Be my loving.**

O Kindness, be my God,

that I may be your kindness for this world.

Amen.

[stevegarnaasholmes]

May the heart of peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

*You are invited to share this ancient greeting with those seated near you. We are mindful each of us are at different levels of comfort, please honor those around you as you share peace. You are invited to turn to the camera and say hello to all worshipping with us online!*

#### **Life of the Church**



*You are invited to sign in via check-in. If you would like to receive our weekly update by email or would like to schedule a time for coffee with our pastor, please provide that information on the form.*

#### **Reflecting on the Sacred Story**

**From the Gospel according to Mark Chapter 13**

We tell stories to learn, to grow, to spark more questions.

**In the listening and the telling may our hearts and minds**

**spark our imaginations as co-creators.**

**Amen.**

#### **Prayers of the Community**

*Invitation to Silence and Breath*

Cry, if the tears come.

Cry fat tears— for all that we’ve lost and are losing, still.

For all that could have been.

For all we could have saved but didn’t, couldn’t, wouldn’t.

Weep oceans and rage like river rapids.

Be careful where you place your anger, though.

Turning on each other is terribly easy.

Much harder, to mobilize resistance that matters.

Mobilize resistance that matters. Keep it flowing.

Drink water.

Because we are water

and too much has been dammed and we need to flow —

Please keep flowing — so drink some water. And now some more.

Remember sacred truths carried close by wise ones across time:

**We need each other.**

**We need beauty and softness and joy.**

**Grief and joy entangle, and, when honest, deepen each other.**

Consequences grow.

We reap what we sow.

So much terror has been sown for so long.

We are so very powerful, and not so powerful at all.

**We need each other, still.**

Greed, division, supremacy, hierarchies of value —

they are deadly and will be the death of us,

unless we repattern that toxicity out.

**And we can repattern that harm.**

We can heal, with and for each other.

We can salve and soften.

**We can root and resist.**

We can share and savor.

We can mutually aid and collectively care.

We can practice freedom under conditions that fear us, free.

We’ve got this, and, we don’t.

Keep crying, keep breathing, keep raging, but softly.

Keep flowing, keep singing, keep dreaming.

Let this be a reckoning, for all that we are still refusing to face.

Let this be an invitation into possibilities that can only become,

through we.

[annablaedel]

#### **Music of Centering**

**Out of Need and Out of Custom**

**293**

#### **Reflection**

**A Revelation**

**Rev. Simmons**

#### **Music of Response**

**Remember Who You Are**

**BURROWS**

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

#### **Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes & Our Gifts**

**Debora Biggs**



*You are invited to share offering via Paypal (using the QR code on the left) or in the plate as it is passed. We invite you to share your offerings of time, passion, energy, and resources. Thank you for investing in Spirituality, Justice, and Community as it comes to life at NACC.*

**Musical Invitation** *Search With All Your Heart* **MILLER**  
**CHANCEL CHOIR**

**\*Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Gratitude** **Mark Biggs**

**Communion Meditation & Sharing the Lord's Supper**  
**with Revs. Jenn Simmons, Jody Furnas-Wright, Elders & Deacons**

God is like a movement.  
Love, growing.  
Rowdy with aspiration.  
Adapting and creating in the direction of liberation.  
Using beauty to inspire –painting dreams across creation.  
Feeding the bread of life to all who hunger for justice.  
Weary, but alive with hope.  
Fueled with tears, and grit,  
and memories of saints past,  
going nose to nose with evil, planted firmly in truth.

**Working. Writing. Singing.**

Arrests and threats.  
Slander and shame.  
It is Sacred Labor, but laughter too.  
**Whatever you have to bring is enough.**  
Loaves and fishes are made into feasts.  
Can you hear the invitation?  
It extends to all who desire freedom. [enfleshedliturgy]

**We take this bread, a loaf shared for all.**

A reminder that life is shared.  
**We take this cup filled with the fruit of the vine.**  
We pour it, we bless it, and we share it.

**Remembering Jesus' way,**  
**an expansive way calling for the care of ourselves,**  
**our beautifully created whole selves.**

As we seek to embrace this invitation in our lives,  
may it nurture us so we can extend this way to all we meet  
and be a part of building the kin-dom of love here and now.

**Prayer at the Table** **John Mihalevich**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

*This morning we will receive communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward and to take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat, and leave your toothpick in the bowl. The bread is gluten, nut, and dairy free so all may share at the table. If you would prefer a pre-packaged communion, remain seated and we will bring one to you. All are welcome to share at the table set by Jesus.*

**Sending Song** *God of the Future* **SLANE**  
God of our dark night, and God of our day,  
God of our journey, whose will is our way,  
when our path dims and the future's unknown,  
still you walk with us; we're never alone.

Though the familiar should fade and turn strange,  
your steady love for us never will change.  
So when we worry and can't see the way  
Love, still your grace is enough for today.

All that is taken and all that we lose,  
all of the cost of the path that we choose  
never compares with the grace you impart:  
faithful and gracious, you give us your heart.

Bless all the journeys we still are to make.  
May they shed mercy and light for your sake.  
Lead us with courage on journeys unknown,  
walking in blessing, and never alone.

Be our companion, our courage, our nerve,  
You, the heart in us, to love and to serve.  
Blessings you promise, whatever befall.  
Still you walk with us, O lover of all. [stevegarnaasholmes]

**Words for Our Journey**

Go forth being a witness,  
to your story and the story of the world.  
Tell anyone who will listen the truth about love.  
Be a part of laboring a world, a revelation of love.

**Postlude**

**National Avenue Christian Church**  
417.869.9176 natlave@sbcglobal.net www.nationalavenuecc.com  
**Rev. Jenn Simmons**, Lead Pastor | **Ashley Quinn**, Pastoral Apprentice  
**Rev. Jody Furnas-Wright**, Adjunct Pastor for Faith Formation with Families  
**Rev. Dr. John White**, Theologian in Residence  
**Jonathan Raney**, Music Director | **Jennifer Forni**, Music Assistant  
**Alex Bates**, Sound Technician | **David Derossett**, Tech Support  
**Sarah Cybulski**, Finance Coordinator  
**Hayley Norton**, Communication Coordinator | **Nicholas & Olivia Villaroel**, Sextons  
**Greta Allen & Aydia Lancaster**, Nursery Caregivers  
**Kylie Robertson & Claudia Brown-Jackson**, UNO Team  
**John Scroggins**, Board Moderator  
**Mark & Debora Biggs, Christie and Jonathan Lancaster,**  
**John Mihalevich**, Elders  
**Lexi Amos, Chris Brown, Miles Pearson, Brian Paul, Jennifer Potts**, Deacons

# National Avenue Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



*Meghalaya's Living Root Bridge*

***Belonging:***  
***Bearing Witness***  
***17 November 2024***