The Gathering of a People of God

National Avenue Christian Church 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 both enriches us and this time of celebration together~

Prelude

MOKLEBUST For the Beauty of the Earth **Chancel Bell Choir**

Words of Gathering

Matt Ensley

In beauty, in connection, in wonder.

We seek Holy Love.

In anger, in sorrow, in fatigue.

We seek Holy Love.

In questions, in upheaval, in uncertainty.

We seek Holy Love.

Pausing, notice where you are today.

[pause]

May you seek Holy Love.

God accompanies us tenderly, boldly.

Together— We Seek Holv Love.

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

*Gathering Hymn

O God of Vision

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*Sharing the Light of Community

Who am I that I get to hold such beauty?

I am creation.

Who am I that get to see the light dance through the trees?

I am love.

Who am I that the birds sing their choruses when I am near?

I am delight.

Who am I that wind touches the branches and then dances on my face? I am witness.

I will tell of creation's goodness.

I will sing of her glory.

I will tend to her care.

Here I am.

Here we are.

[jsimmons]

The Candle of Christ is lit.

We have searched for the light.

Dear ones, we need not search any further.

The Light is here.

The Light is here.

The Light is with us.

The Light is with us.

The Light is in us.

The light is in us.

We are light.

[isimmons]

*Passing of the Peace

How to Love the World

Wake up early, before the lights come on in the houses on a street that was once a farmer's field at the edge of a marsh. Wander from room to room, hoping to find words that could be enough to keep the soul alive, words that might be useful or kind in a world that is more wasteful and cruel every day. Remind us that we are like grass that fades, fleeting clouds in the sky, and then give us just one of those moments

when we were paying attention, when we gave up everything to see the world in

a rainbow in the sky, the heart leaping up.

a grain of sand or to behold

[joycesutphen]

Matt Ensley

— How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope by **James Crews**

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 **Rev. Jenn Simmons**



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.

Reading the Sacred Story Matt Ensley

Our scriptures today come from The Voice bible translation. From the Holy Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah Chapter 6 & From the Christian Testament, The Gospel of Luke Chapter 5

A reading to ground us in our tradition and inspire us to dream. Amen.

Prayers of the Community

Rev. Jody Furnas-Wright

When we abandon our bodies to be absorbed in our screens,

We return by our breath. (inhale, exhale)

When our bodies are overwhelmed with fear and anxiety,

We take care with our breath. (inhale, exhale)

When our bodies fail and disappoint,

We stay close to our breath. (inhale, exhale)

When our bodies cause harm and suffering to others,

We come back to our center with our soft breath. (inhale, exhale)

When our bodies are harmed and violated.

We take refuge in the calm of the breath. (inhale, exhale)

When we judge others and are judged by the appearance of our bodies,

When we use bodies to justify "othering" our fellow beings,

We remember that we share the same breath. (inhale, exhale)

When we are consumed by thoughts of how we'd like to change our bodies,

We marvel at the steady perfection of the breath. (inhale, exhale)

When we inhabit bodies of trauma and histories of abuse.

We breathe for those who have endured before us. (inhale, exhale) When bodies are dismissed and degraded as unspiritual,

We celebrate the incarnate God whose lungs were filled with breath. (inhale, exhale)

When bodies are demonized for their hungers and longings,

We celebrate our capacity to delight and share breath. (inhale, exhale)

When sexuality and intimacy are only ever painted with shame,

We rebel and enjoy the closeness of breath. (inhale, exhale)

When bodies feel like burdens,

We remember the incredible joys that come to us through bodies. When bodies feel broken,

We remember that we always have something to bless the world with.

When bodies feel irrelevant,

We remember that our bodies are how we care for and relate to one another.

We value and celebrate bodies because God does—God who made bodies and said that they were good. Jesus inhabited a body; he knows what it's like to swim in the sea, to smell freshly baked bread, to hug someone he loves dearly. The Spirit is our breath moving in, through, and between us. It gives us life, moment to moment, freely and abundantly. Because of our faith, we proclaim the brilliance and beauty of bodies as spiritual teachers and ask God's help in remembering and reclaiming their wisdom and joy.

May our bodies be a blessing to us. May we use our bodies generously to bless the world.

Our breath brings us back to ourselves; our breath unites us with all beings. Through this embodied breath, this animating spirit, may we live and move and have our being.

(inhale, exhale) Amen.

[Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice by Britney Winn Leel

We join with the chorus of the saints who have gone before us...

Our Mother, Our Father,

author of all life.

holy is your presence.

May your story strengthen our own,

the story of this world becomes the story of the unfolding of heaven.

Give us this moment, moment by moment.

Forgive us completely

and make us completely forgiving of ourselves and others.

Save us from the weakness of our will,

and keep us from doing injustice.

For all Being is yours; all power is yours; all glory is yours;

In this moment in eternity. Amen.

[steveholmesgaranas]

Music of Centering

There Shall Be Dancing
Chancel Bell Choir

BEHNKE To a

Sacred Conversation: Kai Sutton, President of the NAACP, JWJ

with Rev. Jenn Simmons Rest is Resistance: Listening to Our Bodies

Music of Calling

Take My Gifts

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Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes and Our Gifts Liz Wertz
Missouri Proposition A ballot for Healthy Families



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 Gift

For Your Beauty Chancel Choir SORENSON

*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

Neil Guion

Sharing the Lord's Supper

Revs. Jenn Simmons, Jody Furnas-Wright with Elders & Deacons

Please be seated.

The doors of the Nap Temple are open.

Won't you come?

This is an invitation for weary souls to rest.

This is a resistance.

This is a protest.

This is a counternarrative to the lie that we all aren't doing enough.

We are enough.

This is a counternarrative to the lie that our worth

is tied to the grind of capitalism and the lie of white supremacy.

You are enough simply by being alive.

Thank you for living.

Thank you for resisting.

Thank you for creating.

Thank you for dreaming.

Thank you for resting.

We believe that our healing can visit us while we are napping.

While we are resting.

While we are sleeping.

While we are slowing down.

We believe that naps provide a dream and visioning space.

To invent.

To create.

To heal.

To imagine.

This is what resistance looks like.

Won't you come?

This is a resistance.

This is a protest.

[triciahersey]

This is how we make a way of peace.

Prayer at the Table Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Etta Madden

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. As we share in communion, please join in singing:

Sending Song

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Center 575

Rev. Jenn Simmons

Words for the Journey

The work of the community is not easy.

It requires vulnerability and energy.

Sometimes relational dynamics are difficult and we make mistakes.

At the same time, the work of community is full of grace.

It buoys us, we co-create belonging,

we are moved by love for the world.

It teaches us to learn to listen to our bodies.

We go forth to do the serious and soulful work of our community.

We go forth to love the world,

beginning with ourselves.

[adapt/enfleshed]

Postlude

National Avenue Christian Church

417.869.9176 | natlave@sbcglobal.net | www.nationalavenuecc.com Rev. Jenn Simmons, Lead Pastor | Ashley Quinn, Pastor of Public Theology & Justice 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 | 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 | Neil Guion, Etta Madden, Elders Barb & Greg Harrell, Matt Ensley, Emogene Casey, Desmond Simmons, Daniel Guion, Deacons

National Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Bathed in Lightt by Jenn Simmons

Rest is Resistance:
Listening to Our Bodies
9 February 2025