

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 *Raag Desh* Performed by Rohit Choudhary, Sitar

what do you have to teach us about New Life today?

Jesus didn't rise so that we don't have to.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Offering of Ourselves, Blessing the Seedlings
You are invited to bring forth the signs and longings of your heart! Hold them high as you come forward and lay them down. 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 *Hallelujah* **BEETHOVEN**
KIRSTEN WEISS, VIOLIN, EMILIA STAUFFER, CELLO
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 **John Mihalevich**

Sharing the Lord’s Supper
with Revs. Jody Furnas-Wright & Jenn Simmons, Elders & Deacons
Throughout history, O God,
we have struggled to claim the power you have given us.
Destructive forces within
and around us make us question your call upon our lives.
We turn ourselves over, in ways ordinary and remarkable, to what is.
To what has been. To the familiar.
But you have created us for so much more.
In Jesus, we saw a life lived in all its potential. In all its Sacred power.
Life that is abundant. Love that was creative, and fervent for justice.
We saw, too, the consequences of living as if the Kindom were close.
And so we wonder.
If we live with such courage, what will we lose?
In proclaiming truths that confront unjust power,
do we stand a chance of survival?
How will it go for us, if we are willing to risk everything for love?
You have never promised us safety,
but you have shown us what is possible.
The Spirit brings new life even to places of death.
Jesus, knowing the dangers ahead, still did not cave to the threats of
power or give in to the temptations of the popular.
There was nothing he would trade for his love of the suffering and
betrayed, not even his own life.
On the night of his arrest, he gathered around table with his
companions. His friends. His beloveds in the struggle.
Even the one who would turn him over to the cross.
He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to all of them and said,
“**This is my body which is given for you.**
Take, eat, and remember me.”
After the supper, he did the same with the cup, saying,
“**This is a symbol of the new covenant.**
Drink in remembrance of me.”
In remembering the life of Jesus,

we remember what he taught us about ourselves –
about the power God has given us.
We remember that God enfleshed is Good News that feeds, that
protects, that heals, and delivers. We remember the words he spoke:
“**whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing,**
and they will do even greater things than these.”
And so we pray, may we know your Spirit in this bread and this cup.
Through these gifts, fill our hearts with courage to believe the Kindom
is within us, to live boldly in pursuit of love that liberates, and to follow
the Wisdom that leads from the margins.
Blessed be this meal of hope. [enfleshed]

Prayer at the Table **Susan 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 *In the Bulb There is a Flower* **638**

Words for Our Journey
You had not imagined that something so empty
could fill you to overflowing,
and now you carry the knowledge like an awful treasure
or like a child that curls itself within your heart:
how the emptiness will bear forth a new world
you cannot fathom
but on whose edge you stand.
So why do you linger?
You have seen and so you are already blessed.
You have been seen, and so you are the blessing.
There is no other word you need.
There is simply
to go and tell.
There is simply
to begin. [janrichardson]

Postlude
National Avenue Christian Church
417.869.9176 natlave@sbcglobal.net www.nationalavenuecc.com
Rev. Jenn Simmons, Lead Pastor | **Ashley Quinn**, Pastor for Public Theology
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 | **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
John and Susan Mihalevich, Elders
Lexi Amos, Chris Brown, Miles Pearson, Jennifer Potts, Deacons

National Avenue Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



Easter
The Rising Spirit of Justice
20 April 2025