

***National Avenue Christian Church
Online Worship Guide***



Photo by Louis Maniquet

***Everything is Sacred:
Sacred Earth
19 September 2021***

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 both enriches us and this time of celebration together~

As you gather for worship...

- *Bring a candle (and lighter) and communion elements (coffee, juice, bread, bagels, whatever you have!).*
- *During the Passing of the Peace you will be invited to wave and say hi in the comments!*
- *Before worship, you are invited to share your prayers here:
<https://forms.gle/G1V6Hh37pmiv5D5q7>*
- *Breathe and savor the Spirit gathering in this space.*
- *After worship we will gather on Zoom in our digital fellowship space! We will share the Zoom link on Facebook during communion and invite you to begin gathering for fellowship after worship.*

Welcome to Worship

Words of Gathering

Eternal Creator...loving God,
we gather as your Disciples
giving thanks for the sacred earth
entrusted to our care.

We see the beauty of the sunlit sky.

The magnificence of a full moon.
Seasons as they ebb and flow,
and the changes in nature that follow.

It is our sacred duty
to care for this wondrous gift,

Brad and Lucinda Wadle

and to be vigilant of the impact
created by our actions.
We are acutely aware of the fact,
that in our earthly actions,
we serve as examples
to our siblings sharing this planet.
Serving as examples, however,
is simply not enough.
Protecting our sacred earth
requires action and advocacy.

**Sometimes we are uncomfortable
making our voices heard.**

Give us strength to be powerful advocates,
for the sacredness in everything.

[johnscroggins]

Song of Gathering

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

83

Centering in the Light of Christ

Brad Wadle

O God,
we know the small plot of ground
on which we were born
cannot be expected to stay forever the same.

**Creating God,
the earth changes and home becomes different places.**

You took flesh from clay,
but the clay did not come from just one place.

As we strive to feel alive,
significant and safe,
we reach out to know our own waters and hills,
as we strive to know more.
We have stars in our bones and oceans in our blood.
Multiple terrains in our eyes.

God, you remind us,
we belong to the land and sky of our first cry,
we belong to infinity.

[adt/Alla Renee Bozarth]

We belong to you and to creation.

May we be reminded as we gather around the light of Christ.

The Christ Candle is lit.

May the light refresh and remind us who we are.

Passing of the Peace

Lucinda Wadle

For everything that emerges from the earth
thanks be to you, O God.

Holy Root of being.

Sacred Sap that rises.

Full-bodied Fragrance of earth's unfolding form.

May we know that we are of You,

may we know that we are in You,

**may we know that we are one with You,
together as one.**

Guide us as nations to what is deepest.

Open us as peoples to what is first.

Lead us as a world to what is dearest
that we may know the holiness of wholeness.

That we may learn the strength of humility.

That together we may live close to the earth
and grow in grounded glory.

[johnphilipnewell]

With the earth and from the earth,

may we help peace be made known.

This morning, may the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

As we share peace today, we invite you to share this ancient greeting with those gathered. Share a hello or peace sign in the chat!

Life of the Church

Rev. Jenn Simmons

Reading from our Ancient Texts

From Genesis Chapter 1

Creating Spirit, create in us again.

May it be so.

Moment for All

Storykeepers: Rev. Jody Furnas-Wright

Prayer of the Church

*As this community,
we invite you to take a few moments to claim the Spirit,
wherever you are today. We invite you to light your candles as we share prayers
at the end of our silence. As we join in prayer we invite you to share prayers
<https://forms.gle/G1V6Hh37pmiv5D5q7>.*

Silence

O God,
we offer the deepest prayers of our hearts.

Prayers of the community.

Loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we.

**Loving God,
all your creation calls you blessed.**

Your spirit imprints the whole universe with life and mystery.

Yes, all creation proclaims your love.

We now join this chorus of praise.

Loving God,
all of nature calls you blessed, and so do we.
For you have woven an intimate tapestry
and call it life
and called it good.
In love you have formed a universe
so diverse yet so related,
and into its web you call us forth
to walk the land and swim the sea with all of humankind.
To the stars, we seem no more than blades of grass.
Yet to you, each of us,
as each blade of grass and each star,
is an irreplaceable treasure,
an essential companion on this journey of love.
Loving God, as you call the whole world into wholeness
guide us with your Spirit
so that we might not be only pilgrims on the earth,
but pilgrims with the earth,
journeying with you.

**Open our hearts to understand
the intimate relationship that you have with all creation.**

Loving God, loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we.

[Source unknown]

Reflection

Sacred Earth

Rev. Simmons

Music of Response

Voices of the Earth

Dickau

**SINGERS: RANDALL BECRAFT, JENNIFER FORNI,
PATRICK MULHERON AND COURTNEY WRIGHT**

Invitation to Offering

Brad Wadle

Thank you for being church and for all the ways you support one another!

To make a financial gift online visit: [here](#)

Music of Response

God Breathed

Choplin

**SINGERS: RANDALL BECRAFT, JENNIFER FORNI,
PATRICK MULHERON AND COURTNEY WRIGHT**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Steve Flower

Sharing at our Tables

Rev. Simmons

At the tables of our lives,
we pray to awaken in ourselves
the passionate intensity of the Presence
that brought everything and everyone
into existence.

At the tables of our lives,
we pray to stir in us
the yearnings of this creative, energizing Presence,
for new beginnings that could be expressed
in our evolving humanity and to find the depth of compassion.

In loving compassion,
we grow and find wholeness in and with God.

In loving compassion,
we are fed and we are nourished.

In loving compassion,
**we are placed into relationships with all creation,
that God's peace and justice might reign.**

In loving compassion,
we gather at our table.

Today, at the tables of our lives, we once again commit ourselves
to be the kind of people who do not look away.

Today, at the tables of our lives, we once again ask for grace
to begin anew as co-creators with you, of heaven on earth.
We take the bread of our lives made from the elements of the earth.
We break it, we bless it, and we share it—
remembering your body, given for all.
We take this cup filled with the fruit of the vine.
We pour it, we bless it, and we share it—
remembering your blood poured out for the life of the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Stephanie Scott-Huffman

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*During this time, you are invited to eat and drink. We are connected by the tables
of our lives. Across distance, we are united by sharing together. Our presence, in
person or across digital space, brings the Table to life.*

Song of Blessing

Let the Whole Creation Cry

21

Words for the Journey

Rev. Simmons

As we go forth this day,
let us remember our calling:
**To love God, love ourselves, love our neighbors,
and to love this sacred earth.**
May we be aware of the impact of our actions,
and our voices,
especially when it comes to ensuring
the eternal life of this planet.
**Let us honor God, ourselves, and this planet,
In all that we do.**
As we leave this sacred time of gathering
we pray, loving Creator,
that you will richly bless us,
bless the sacred earth,

as we entrust all to your care.

May the love of God be with us always.

Amen.

[johnscroggins]

Postlude

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