National Avenue Christian Church Online Worship Guide



Photo by Jenn Simmons

Sacred Earth:
Original Blessing
17 October 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

Candy Adams

As we gather here,
we sense the Sacred in this place.
May we be awakened again to
the mysteries that humble us,
the realities that orient us,
the beauty that informs us,
the fellowship that sustains us,
and the creativity that heightens and deepens our living,
that we may give ourselves in honesty and openness
to the larger life before us.

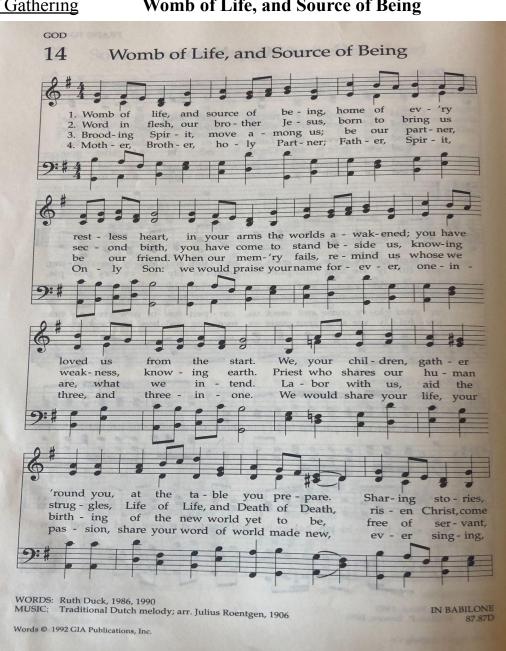
[adapt/clarkewells]

We gather in this sacred space, made holy by our words, melodies and presence. We gather in this sacred space, offering our minds, hearts, and whole selves.

We gather in this sacred space, open to one another and God's presence.

Song of Gathering

Womb of Life, and Source of Being



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Centering in the Light of Christ

Candy Adams

We have heard the stories many times before.

May we stay open.

This morning may we be ready to listen,

ready to receive something new and different in the story.

A word of blessing,

for each of us,

from the very beginning.

God created and it was good.

God created us and we are good.

Jesus' way and life was a reminder of this goodness.

An invitation to embrace and live it out.

The word spoken and lived.

As we light this candle,

may we center together around the light of Christ.

[jsimmons]

The Christ Candle is lit.

May the light refresh and remind us who we are.

Passing of the Peace

Candy Adams

The One who birthed all life into being created us for relationship:

With each other.

With the land and all its creatures.

With Spirit, present all around us.

The One who rights all wrongs and lifts up the suffering:

Reveals the evils that threaten our connections.

Ushers us all toward redemption.

The One who makes healing possible:

Calls us home to our purpose and potential.

[enfleshedliturgy]

May we find peace as we strive to live the Way of Jesus together.

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

Please let us know you are with us here by filling out this form. 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 from our Ancient Texts

From Genesis Chapter 3

Creating Spirit, create in us again. **May it be so.**

Prayer of the Church

Rev. Scott-Huffman

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.

Gracious and Loving Creator,
this life you give us is sacred.
Our own lives, our neighbors lives,
everyone near and far,
those we know and do not know.
The ground, the sky and the air all around us, all sacred.

The ground, the sky and the an an around at

We pause to give thanks.

We pause to reflect, to pray and to hold close our neighbors in despair, our land that endures so much, our communities who desire unity and the many who are tired, heavy with burdens, struggling with addiction, mental physical health hardships, and so much more.

Loving and Gracious Creator,
We honor you by honoring your creation,
your earth and your people.
Continue to teach us the ways to care for
your creation and keep it sacred.
Amen.

[stephaniescotthuffman]

Reflection

Claiming the Blessing

Rev. Scott-Huffman

Music of Response

Shalom

FORREST

VIOLIN: KIRSTEN WEISS, SINGERS: RANDALL BECRAFT, JENNIFER FORNI, PATRICK MULHERON AND COURTNEY WRIGHT

Invitation to Offering

Blessing of the Hats

Without even knowing who would receive it, these hats were to be a reminder of God's love. May they see the intricate love and care given to the hat, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows upon all people.

This hat was made to bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they cover their head.

This hat was made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

May they feel comfort in knowing

that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.

This hat was made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer.

May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn offering protection from the cold.

This hat was made to remind the recipient that they are part of the community.

May they feel touched by our love, and feel warmth on the cold nights ahead.

[adapt/sarahweaver]

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

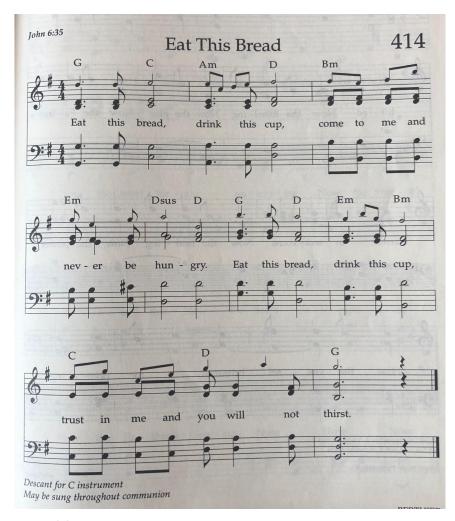
To make a financial gift online visit: <u>here</u>

Music of Response Let His Love Be Found In You BESIG VIOLIN: KIRSTEN WEISS, SINGERS: RANDALL BECRAFT, JENNIFER FORNI, PATRICK MULHERON AND COURTNEY WRIGHT

Prayer of Thanksgiving Susan Mihalevich

Communion Meditation Rev. Simmons

Communion Hymn Eat This Bread 414



Sharing at our Tables

Today you are reminded of this other truth –

Communion always comes to us.

We don't "make it"

with our baking or our prayers.

God is so wildly generous,

no one needs to move an inch.

Please stay put,

wherever and whoever you are,

Communion with God is coming to you.

All we need is to stay open and ready to receive.

This goodness has been experienced by many long before us

at tables set by Jesus. We remember so many different tables of Jesus – his acceptance of hospitality from Peter's mother-in-law and Martha, from Simon so suspicious of sex workers, Zacchaeus, love-venture capitalist, and one boy with a small picnic lunch. We remember Jesus learning the lesson about who eats on and who eats under the tables of the world from a Syrophoenician woman, and his teaching his disciples that lesson another evening gently and with foot washing. We remember the Passover meal with a betrayer and a denier present, and everyone scared and so confused. Jesus used what was familiar. bread already on the table and a cup from which they had drunk. Always, even today, in the ordinary, anyone can reach the holiest food, and even a single cupped hand.

You hold the bread of heaven.

Honor it.

It is consecrated to perfectly match your needs.

Receive it.

We eat it in hope.

You hold the cup of blessing. Honor it. It is consecrated so you become one of the Saints of Communion. Receive this one small sip – deeply.

We drink it in joy.

[adapt/marentirabassi]

Prayer of Thanksgiving

John Mihalevich

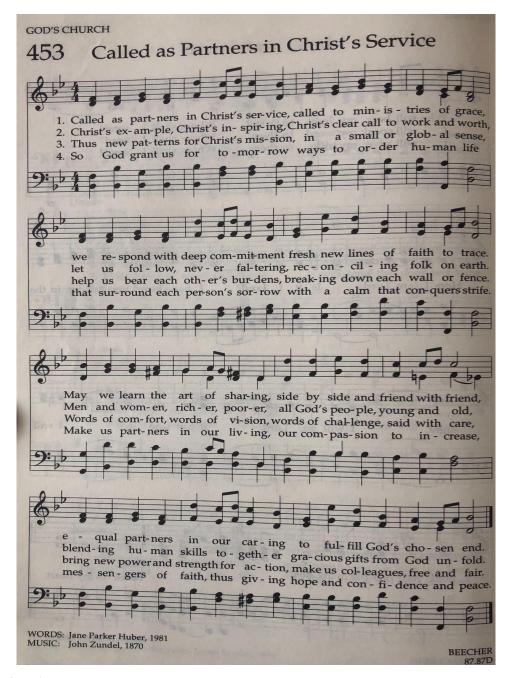
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

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

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

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Words for the Journey

Rev. Scott-Huffman

We are born,
not of brokenness but of belonging.
The image of God,
woven into our bodies and being,
binds us together with all of creation.
Turning from supremacies in all their forms,

refusing to participate in cycles of shame,
practicing love that transforms and protects,
the Spirit sends us to embrace the belovedness of all life. [enfleshedliturgy]

May it be so for us.

Postlude

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Rev. Jenn Simmons, Lead Pastor,
Rev. Michelle Scott-Huffman, Adjunct Pastor for Preaching
Rev. Jody Furnas-Wright, Adjunct Pastor for Faith Formation with Families
Hayley Norton, Communication Coordinator,
Ashley Quinn, Justice Coordinator & Technical Director
Sarah Cybulski, Finance Coordinator,
Stephanie Scott-Huffman, Director of Digital Ministry
Rev. Dr. John White, Pastoral Care, Jonathan Raney, Music Director