

***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

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.

Candy Adams

[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

GOD OF HEAVEN

14 Womb of Life, and Source of Being

1. Womb of life, and source of be - ing, home of ev - 'ry
2. Word in flesh, our bro - ther Je - sus, born to bring us
3. Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner,
4. Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fath - er, Spir - it,

rest - less heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened; you have
sec - ond birth, you have come to stand be - side us, know - ing
be our friend. When our mem - 'ry fails, re - mind us whose we
On - ly Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er, one - in -

loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren, gath - er
weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our hu - man
are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us, aid the
three, and three - in - one. We would share your life, your

'round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing sto - ries,
strug - gles, Life of Life, and Death of Death, ris - en Christ, come
birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of ser - vant,
pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er sing - ing,

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1986, 1990
MUSIC: Traditional Dutch melody; arr. Julius Roentgen, 1906

IN BABILONE
87.87D

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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.

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: [here](#)

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

John 6:35 Eat This Bread 414

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Eat This Bread'. It is written in G major and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.' The guitar chords are: G, C, Am, D, Bm, Em, Dsus, D, G, D, Em, Bm, C, D, G.

Descant for C instrument
May be sung throughout communion

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 Syrophenician 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

453

453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is - tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in- spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob - al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to - mor - row ways to or - der hu-man life

we re- spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con- quers strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car - ing to ful-fill God's cho - sen end.
 blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87D

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

National Avenue Christian Church 417.869.9176
natlave@sbcglobal.net • www.nationalavenuecc.com
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