

**National Avenue Christian Church
Online Worship Guide**



Image by Brandi Alexandra

Living in Partnership
7 August 2022

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 worshiping 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!).*
- *Before worship, you are invited to share your prayers [here](#).*
- *Check-in [here](#) and say hello so we can greet one another as we come to worship!*
- *Breathe and savor the Spirit gathering in this space.*

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

Words of Gathering

Steve Flower & Don Childers

When it comes to mental health,
ubuntu tells us that unity is our biggest strength.

We live in community.

Community is defined as

“a group of people living in the same place
or having a particular characteristic in common” and
“the condition of sharing or having certain attitudes and interests in common.”

Ubuntu lies at the heart of the power a crowd can harness for the common good.
If you think something needs to change because it's unfair or unjust,
the likelihood is that others will feel the same way.

If we dare to speak up,

we will often find we're not a lone voice,

but one of many.

The world is full of individuals who all want the same thing:

a fair and just society,

an opportunity to live in peace with good health,

a chance to provide for their families,

and to feel safe and prosperous.

These are fundamental needs of the human condition. [adapt/mungingomane]

We gather in the Spirit of the one

who invites us to come together to be community.

***Gathering Hymn**

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

485

***Centering in the Light of Christ**

Don Childers

Creating God,

lover of life and of everything,

please help us to love in our very small way

what You love infinitely and everywhere.

We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer

and that will be more than enough,

because in reality everything

and everyone is connected,

and nothing stands alone.

**To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole,
and so we do.**

Help us each day to stand for love,

for healing, for the good,

for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation,

because we know this is what You desire:

as Jesus prayed,

that all may be one.

We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God,

we offer our prayer together with Jesus,

who helps us find our way.

[centerforactionandcontemplation]

The Christ Candle is lit.

We ignite this light,
bravely claiming it.
**Your light, our light,
in our midst.**

***Passing of the Peace**

Steve Flower

If we are able to see ourselves in other people,
our experience in the world will inevitably be a richer,
kinder,
more connected one.
If we look at others and see ourselves reflected back,
we inevitably treat people better.

This is ubuntu.

[Ngomane, Mungi]

How can I see myself in other people?

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

And also with you.

You are invited to share this ancient greeting in the chat!

Please drop a note of peace to one another!

Life of the Church

Ashley Quinn



Please let us know you are with us here by filling out this form and greeting one another in the chat. 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 Stories of our Tradition

From the Letter to Church Acts Chapter 2:42- and Luke 12:13-21

We bring our ideas, identities, and curiosity to the text.

These words become holy as we bring our presence, questions, and whole selves.

Prayers of the Community

The Rev. Ken Chumbley

*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
here <https://forms.gle/G1V6Hh37pmiv5D5q7>.*

Silence.

O God of creation,
who paints the world with wonder,
we summon you to be near as we walk with a soul full of dreams.
There is an ache alive in our beings to intertwine
our lives in the life of community,
where the love is tender,
the work cries for justice,
and the walk is humble.

**Love is nurtured between us,
and the Spirit dwells among us.**

O God of the incarnate,
who takes simple bread and makes it holy,
we feel you on this ground.
May we learn the history we stand upon,
the neighbors that surround us,
the needs of this neighborhood,
the soil and seed below our feet.
May we be formed by the roots of this place,
and may this community bring life whose branches spread with beauty.

**Love is nurtured between us,
and the Spirit dwells among us.**

O God of breath,
who conspires with us even now,
we bring our hearts to the journey.
We bring our hands to the work.
We bring our gratitude for the witnesses who guide us in this ancient work
of building community.

God, dwell here in the beautiful and painful Gift of birthing.

Breathe with us and through us.

**Love is nurtured between us,
and the Spirit dwells among us.**

O God of love,
who knit us in the depths of the earth,
guide our discerning hearts.

Cultivate our patience.

Set free our imaginations.

Ignite our courage.

Let it begin.

**Love is nurtured between us,
and the Spirit dwells among us.**

[Britney Winn Lee]

Amen.

Music of Centering

Jonathan Raney, Piano

Reflection: *Treasure. Togetherness. Transformation.* **Rev. Chumbley
Chaplain, Council of Churches of the Ozarks**

Music of Response

Be Thou My Vision

595 (vs 1)

Our Offering: Sharing in Ministry

Pam Thompson



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

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

JENNIFER FORNI AND JASMINE MARTIN, DUET

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Steve Flower

Communion Liturgy

We give you thanks, our Divine Creator.
You declared from the beginning
that we were created in your image
a reflection of what is holy, each, in our own way,
a glimpse of you.
We praise the works of your creative hand
that fills our life with beauty.
Every flower that blooms,
every animal that delights,
every body of water that sustains our life –
all part of your good works.
Despite the abundance of life around us,
we still turn to destruction.
Each in our own ways,
we have failed to embrace you by failing
to embrace all your people, especially those different than us.
We have, at times, sided with political and religious powers
that refuse to recognize your image in all people.
And so we turn to Jesus,
who showed us what it looks like
to live into our true selves as people of God.
He was humble yet grounded in your love for him.
He sought out the despised and made them friends.
He confronted every power that belittled,
marginalized, and oppressed.
His commitment to living out the image of God

enfleshed could not be swayed, even in the face of death.

We celebrate Jesus' way as we come to the table.

At the table, everyone is welcome.

At the table, we experience our connection.

Communion Song

What Is This Place

289

Words of Remembrance and Invitation

On the night of his arrest,

he gathered around table with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

"This is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

He did the same with the cup after the supper, saying,

"This cup that is poured out is the new covenant."

Even in death, O God, your love prevailed.

Through you Spirit, there is life from death.

No person, no institution,

no force of evil could extinguish the work of your hand.

And so, by the same Spirit,

bless these gifts of bread and cup

that they may be the living Christ within us today;

compelling us to be agents of love,

uncompromising on our commitment

to protecting every one of your creatures and creations.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Claudia Brown-Jackson

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.

Words for the Journey

The divisions,
dichotomies,
and dualisms of the world can only be overcome by
a *unitive consciousness* at every level:
personal, relational, social, political, cultural, in inter-religious dialogue,
and spirituality in particular.

A transformed people unite all within themselves,
so they can then do the same in the world.

[julianofnorwich]

May we be a transformed people.

Postlude

National Avenue Christian Church 417.869.9176

natlave@sbcglobal.net • www.nationalavenueecc.com

Rev. Jenn Simmons, Lead Pastor,

Rev. Jody Furnas-Wright, Adjunct Pastor for Faith Formation with Families

Hayley Norton, Communication Coordinator,

Ashley Quinn, Justice Coordinator & Technical Director

Evan Gregory, Sound Technician

Sarah Cybulski, Finance Coordinator,

Rev. Dr. John White, Pastoral Care, **Jonathan Raney**, Music Director