

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



*Image by: Ryan Arnst*

***Holy Disruptions:  
Love Born Anew  
27 November 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 in the chat.*
- *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**

**Kathy Davis and Dena Lantz**

Hope is gravity for the broken—  
**pulling us up.**

Hope is manna in the wilderness,  
**when we want to give up.**

Hope is seeing stars in the city,  
**when we forget the sky is there.**

Hope is the anthem of faith  
**and the reason we are here.**

So come to this place with your hopes and your fears,  
**for the God of new life is drawing near.**

[santifiedart]

Let us gather, with all the hope we can muster.

**\*Sharing the Advent Light: Hope**

In the cold and dark winter months,  
Advent is a season of hope.  
As people of faith,  
we seek light and life in places where it appears all has been destroyed.  
We trust in God's active presence,  
co-creating with all things,  
to build a just, peaceful, and life-giving way for all.  
**We are called to actively embody Advent hope.**

In this work, we come together as partners,  
joining with others so our presence can be visible  
and make a greater impact, more than anything we can do alone.  
As part of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ,  
we are a part of Week of Compassion.  
The work of Week of Compassion reflects  
the hope, peace, joy and love of this season in tangible ways.  
Through a global network of partners,  
Week of Compassion collaborates and works within partners' structures,  
communicating with those who best understand the needs  
and have the most effective means of distributing resources.  
Using partners' strength,  
the hope is that our response will have meaningful impact,  
while empowering leaders in the local community.  
Week of Compassion has been at work with partners in Pakistan in the wake of a  
torrential monsoon season that has devastated Pakistan,  
bringing the worst flooding in modern history,  
and leaving almost incomprehensible damage  
across most of the country of Pakistan:

- 33 million people flood-affected

- 6.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance
- 1.8 million houses damaged or destroyed
- 750,000 livestock killed
- 1,500 estimated flood-related deaths, and 13,000 injured
- 4,000 miles of roads and nearly 300 bridges destroyed
- 17,500 schools completely or partially damaged

Week of Compassion has been and continues to be in Ukraine.

Coming alongside ecumenical partners,  
WOC has been able to support winterization work  
and continued needs in the area.

**In the face of devastation, destruction, and violence,  
Hope becomes real as we discover ways to come alongside our partners  
and offer our support.**

*The Candle of Hope is lit.*

We proclaim God's hope in our midst.

We proclaim God's hope in creation.

**Hope is here,**

**Hope is with us,**

**Hope is in us.**

**\* Music of Response**

**One Candle is Lit (vs 1)**

**128**

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,

our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.

Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.

One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Practice, practice, practice.

Neither a new way nor a new world

will come to us all at once.

Not quickly.

**Not without failure(s).**

Not without patience and determination  
but through holy repetition –  
radical rituals of hope and curiosity,  
of learning and unlearning,  
mending and repairing,  
inventing alternative habits of power,  
that construct life anew.

**Divinity takes on flesh.**

Salvation draws near.

[enfleshedliturgy]

This morning, may the peace of God, the peace of belonging, 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**

**Rev. Jenn Simmons**



*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 Gospel of Matthew Chapter 24**

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**

*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.*

God of the weary and waiting,  
Scripture tells us that where two or more are gathered, you are there.  
So we trust that you are here—  
listening to these words,  
drawing us close,  
stirring hope awake in us.  
And for that, we are grateful.

**We are so grateful.**

We gather for a few moments in silence:

*Silence*

Today, Holy God, we feel hope in our midst when:  
the choir sings,  
when the candles are lit,  
when we enter this space and someone knows our name.  
When our children are curious,  
when we find moments of true connection,  
when we are brave enough to be who you call us to be.

However, God, even with gratitude for these moments of hope indwelling,  
we also recognize that buried deep within us we have a deep longing for hope.

Holy God, we are longing for more...

We long for a world we have not seen.

We long for a world where oceans are clean, trees are green,  
and animals are not endangered.

We long for a life where days feel expansive and Sabbath feels possible.

We long for a world where people go to clubs  
and schools without fear of violence.

We long for days where mental health is not stigmatized,



To remember and reclaim  
our true nature -  
unconditional,  
beautifully bountiful,  
unwavering peace,  
love and goodness.

You see,  
we do not need to heal.  
We do not need to change.  
We do not need to fix ourselves.

**We need to remember.**

**Remember who we are.**

Remember that each difficult situation  
has the power to become a force of forgetting  
or another portal to pass through on the journey home.

**Remember to make the most loving choice for yourself  
is to always make the most loving choice for those around you.**

**When you hear the call, “in remembrance of me” -**

**Do so in remembrance of yourself.**

[hayleynorton]

We gather at the table to remember who we are.

**We are loved beyond measure.**

In the midst of the brokenness and heartache,  
In the face of fear and weariness,

**love is here.**

Around a table Jesus gathered with his closest companions.

He gave them bread, a way to taste and remember,

**“This is the bread of life. Remember, remember who you are.”**

He gave them the cup, a way to taste and remember,

**“This is the cup of life. Taste the goodness.”**

You are loved.

You are loved.

*You are love.*

## **Prayer at the Table**

**Tom Boone**

### **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 for the Journey      *Now the Star of Christmas*      NOEL NOUVELET**

Now the star of Christmas shines into our day,  
points a new direction: change is on the way -  
there's another landscape to be traveled through,  
there's a new-born spirit broadening our view.

When the Christ of Christmas speaks to heart and mind,  
clears the clouded vision hurting humankind,  
kindred spirits gather, drawn toward the light,  
sharing revelation, joyful at the sight.

If we choose to follow, we may yet be wise.  
Where the three kings travel, three great faiths arise:  
Jesus Christ for Christians, Jesus, Judah's son,  
Prophet for the Muslim, wisdom in each one.

Where the star enlightens, light is shared around.  
God has drawn no borders, faith sees common ground:  
Peace the hopeful journey, justice without bar,  
God's illumination from a Christmas star.

[Shirley Erena Murray]

### **Words for the Journey**

These days cry out for our attention.  
The earth groans.

**People are laboring for justice.**

**Divine truths bubble up from within - if we'll listen.**

May we go from here with ears, and eyes,  
and hearts open to the Sacred,  
calling for us with gifts of wisdom  
and invitations to courage.

**In assurance the Spirit goes with us,  
let us go in hope.**

[enfleshedliturgy]

May it be so.

**May it be so for us!**

**Postlude**

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