

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~

Prelude

Words of Gathering

Dennis Hawkins & Candy Adams

Unpredictable, irrepressible,
dancing, laughing Spirit,
when we're tempted to be cautious and hesitate,

**draw us forward
into the surprising and joyful future
you have waiting for us.**

Unpredictable, elusive Spirit,
when we're tempted to opt for certainty
**free our spirits to adventure and risk
as your people have always done.**

Unpredictable, people-loving,
freedom-loving Spirit,
when we're tempted to be shackled to comfort and conformity

**enable us to leave such things behind,
call us through your people
into the surprise of each new day.**

Clear our vision,
so we may see things
to which we've paid no attention in the past.

**Sharpen our listening,
so we may hear pleadings and cries
we've never heard before.**

Strengthen our hands,
so we may do things we've previously not dared try.

**Put a new spring into our step,
so we may follow your leading into new situations.**

Draw us dancing and laughing into tomorrow.

[johnconnan]

***Gathering Hymn**

O God of Vision

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***Sharing the Light of Community**

Candy Adams

Spirit of the living God,
in you all things are in motion.

Where change is needed in our thinking or our beliefs,
in our practices or our ways of relating to each other,
be our guide.

**Give us the courage to stay present
to that which makes us uncomfortable.**

Give us patience when we are unsettled.

Give us strength when we face loss.

Give us the faith to welcome necessary change,
eagerly or tepidly,

for the sake of your realm.

[enfleshed]

The Candle of Christ is lit.

This light centers us.

It is the blending of the memory of saints and dear ones.

**This illumination reminds us that our questions,
our creativity, our imagination,
will guide us as we strive to live as followers of the way of Jesus.**

***Passing of the Peace**

Dennis Hawkins

On Pentecost the real miracle was not the momentary wonder
of people speaking languages they hadn't been taught,
but the lasting miracle of people making connections
despite all their separations,
discovering how they were alike despite apparent differences,
knowing belonging despite their being foreign.

They were one;

the boundaries did not exist.

They found a shared story,
tapped into the one Spirit that breathed in them all.

Wonder at this: not that you could
speak some foreign language but that you could love someone
who speaks a foreign language, knowing by listening that

your hearts speak the same language,
you and they breathe the same Spirit,

one breath in all of us,

members of one body.

Something divine is going on,
partly in your heart and partly in theirs.

Only together will you behold the miracle. [stevegarnass-holmes]

May the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to share this ancient greeting with those seated near you. We are mindful each of us are at different levels of comfort, please honor those around you as you share peace. You are invited to turn to the camera and say hello to all worshipping with us online!

Life of the Church

Rev. Jenn Simmons



You are invited to sign in through this QR link. 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 of the Sacred Story

The Gospel according to Acts Chapter 2

Wisdom is not just special knowledge about something.

**Wisdom is a way of being,
a way of inhabiting the world.**

The beauty of wisdom is harmony,
belonging and illumination of thought, action,
heart and mind.

[John O'Donohue]

Prayers of the Community

(As this community, we invite you to take a few moments to savor with open hands or quiet minds, the Spirit in this place.)

[Silence]

We join together in prayer:

We are one.

Yet we are many.

We speak a single language

Yet in different tongues.

We are joined together

yet we live in separate lands.

We are one.

Yet we are many.

How can I see my sibling's tears,
when I do not know their pain?

How can I carry my sibling's load,
when I do not know their burdens?

How can I recognize a hungry journey,
when my belly's full?

How can I celebrate a stranger's joy,
when I do not know the dance?

We are one.

Yet we are many.

Teach me Spirit that I might know,
show me Spirit that I might see

touch me Spirit that I might feel

Though we are many,

we are one.

O God, you love us like a good parent,

and are present in every aspect of our existence.

May your nature become known and respected by all.

May your joy, peace, wholeness and justice

be the reality for everyone

as we live by the Jesus Way.

Give us all that we really need to live every day for you.

And forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures.

Keep us from doing those things which are not of you,

and cause us always to be centered on your love

For you are the true reality in this our now,

and in all our future.

In the Jesus Way, we pray.

Amen.

[dsorrill]

Centering Song

Welcome to God's Love
CHANCEL CHOIR

MILLER

Reflection

For a Future to be Possible

Rev. Simmons

Music of Response

The Song has Just Begun
CHANCEL CHOIR

MARTIN

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes and Our Gifts

Sharing in Ministry



You are invited to share offering via Paypal (using the QR code on the left) or share your offering in the plate as it is passed. We invite you to share your offerings of time, passion, energy, and resources. Thank you for investing in Spirituality, Justice and Community at NACC!

Musical Meditation

*Pentecost Doxology

Praise God whose breath fills all the earth
Whose love reveals our sacred worth
Whose Spirit forms one family
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen. [rogerlyn]

Prayer of Gratitude

Tom Boone

Sharing the Lord's Supper

Communion Meditation

Communion Song *Spirit* 249

Words of Remembrance and Invitation

Today we celebrate the Spirit,
the breath of church.
Jesus of Nazareth promised this breath would come.
We gather around many tables and breathe together.

Jesus embodied a Spirit of life,
calling us to create just ways of living.
Jesus showed us what we are capable of
when we allow this same Spirit to work freely in our lives.

May our time meditating, praying,
sharing at the tables of our lives
become the breath of the church.

**May it give us courage,
the courage and the generosity
that characterized Jesus' life.**

May it give us bravery,
to give ourselves to be embodiments
of the Spirit he bore and of the dream he dreamed.

**May people see in us what we profess to have seen in Jesus –
the Spirit alive in our midst!**

We break and share bread as a sign of our awareness
of the Spirit always with us in all we do
and as a sign of our commitment
to love generously and wholeheartedly.

We drink this fruit of the vine in joyful recognition
of a Spirit poured out into our world.

May the Spirit within us be a source of healing and hope.

Prayer at the Table

Deb Gallion

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

This morning we will receive communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat, and leave your toothpick in the bowl. The bread is gluten, nut, and dairy free so all may share at the table. If you would prefer a pre-packaged communion, remain seated and we will bring one to you. All are welcome to share at the table set by Jesus.

Sending Song

Wind Upon the Waters

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Words for the Journey

Take heart!

For the Holy Spirit does not abandon us—
With us, She weeps, She rages, She dreams.
Go forth with fiery compassion,
for we are co-creators in the world to come.

[enfleshed]

Postlude

Celebration of the Church

Fish Fry & Joining Sunday

June 4th

After Congregational Meeting



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

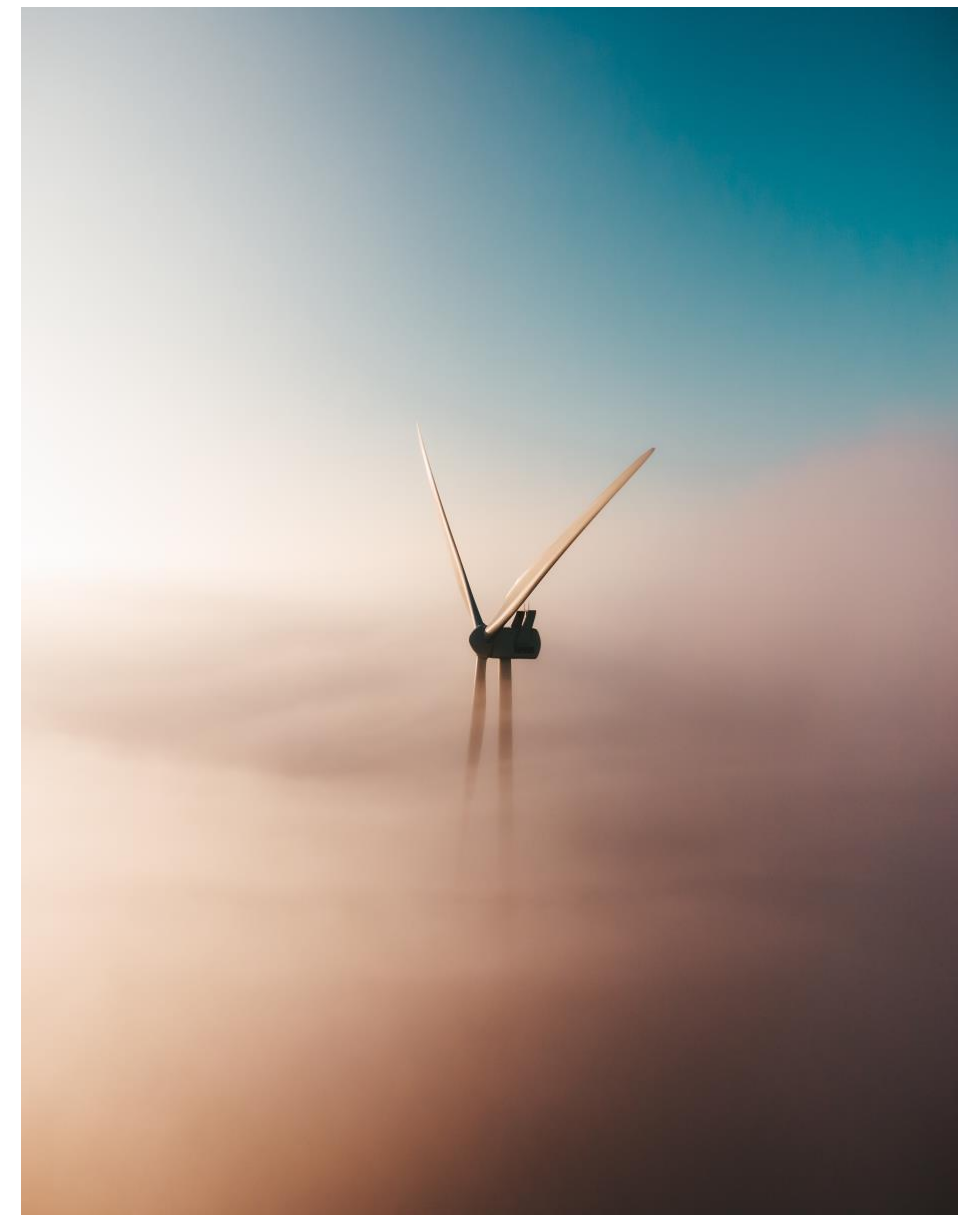
Hayley Norton, Communication Coordinator,

Ashley Quinn, Justice Coordinator & Technical Director

Sarah Cybulski, Finance Coordinator,

Rev. Dr. John White, Theologian in Residence, Jonathan Raney, Music Director

National Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



SANDER WEETELING

Living Buddha, Living Christ
Pentecost
28 May 2023