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 Dena Lantz & Melisabeth Johnston

We show up with our heartfelt questions and readiness to this day's call to celebration.

We celebrate the sparks of discovering what it means to be a church from Peter and the others

who gathered so long ago on Pentecost in Jerusalem.

God's Spirit fills us so that we may dream dreams and see visions.

We are called to bring the kindling,

and be willing to stand near the warmth of the flames.

Even now the flames may dance above our heads.

Igniting our concerns for justice and peacemaking so that they blaze into commitment.

Even now the flames may be burning into our hearts.

Animating us, leaving us no peace as individuals until God's justice and peace fill the earth as the waters fill the seas.

Prophets, visionaries, dreamers!

Let us all celebrate God's love and call to be The Church with courage and with hope. [adapt/jerrystinson]

*Gathering Hymn Creator God of Many Names KINGSFOLD

Creator God of many names, give us your widest view;

we seek your Spirit none can tame,

Your visions bright and new.

Refrain

O Father, Mother, Friend to all, Sophia, Ruah, Guide. In many names you come and call, in many names abide.

Creator God of many names, give us your loving care; we seek your fullest gifts to claim, new dreams with you to dare. *Refrain*

Creator God of many names, give us your deepest grace; we seek you more than wealth or fame, Your justice for each race. *Refrain*

*Sharing the Light of Community

As the earth groans for restoration, the Spirit comes to rouse the people. Her chaos births new worlds.

Her fires spark movements.

She comforts those troubled by evil and agitates the apathetic.

Come and disturb our complacency.

Come and inspire our courage.

Come and enliven all the lifeless places,

tired with grief,

frustrated with struggle.

In community,

make us a passionate people with a wild and unruly practice of hope.

[revmjadekaiser]

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

Melisabeth Johnston

Sometimes we hear the call to be church

and we bristle.

Churches have caused division, trauma, and harm.

In the midst of separation,

we see glimpses and hear reminders of Jesus' way.

Community is possible.

Each person is loved beyond their wildest imagination.

Each person is loved as they are.

We hear the echoes of God's chant, 'You are good, very good.'

The church is invited to celebrate this pride.

God's deep love for creation and the spectrum that exists.

This is our Pentecost calling.

The beautiful Spirit is here.

Let us be a church that tells the truth of our past,

that leans into hurts

and keeps evolving as we work together to live peace.

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 worshiping with us online!

Life of the Church Rev. Jenn Simmons



Dena Lantz

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.

Blessing the Journey

Spiritual Pilgrims

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]

God of movement,

Pentecost comes again.

It will be an end and a beginning.

It will bewilder and confuse.

Though some will fight it, the aching world calls it forth with urgency.

Come, Spirit, come.

The Spirit who moves like "a rush of violent wind..."

Who appears like fire...

Who is the breath of God...

She comes to us unconcerned with order, wild with freedom,

turning over anything and everything that stands in Her way.

Let Her come and fill our mouths with words

we didn't know we could speak.

Let Her come forth

and help us hear in languages we once could not understand.

She is being poured out.

The people will prophesy.

The heavens will draw near.

The chorus of voices past will join and proclaim the truth of God.

Justice will come.

Do not be like the ones who sneer and ask, "are they drunk?"

Do not be surprised by what's happening as if

the scriptures and history and the prophets have not foretold...

You've heard it said –the sun will burn out and the moon turn to blood before the day of Justice arrives.

Instead of words that bring fear, O God,

may our hearts be open your hearts be open to your grace and love,

may we carry it into our churches and world.

Let courage rise up. Let passion enflame.

Let love transform.

Let weeping fill the land.

There will be no peace until there is justice.

No healing until wrongs are made right.

Come, Spirit, Come.

May we move bravely together as we do the work of creating and being a just community. [enfleshed]

Celebrating the Church Dear Church... Rev. Simmons

Music of Response

We Shall Be Known CHANCEL CHOIR MaMuse

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes and Our Gifts

Sharing in Ministry

Celebration of Leaders

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

Blessed Are You CHANCEL CHOIR HAYES

*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. [1

[rogerlyn]

Prayer of Gratitude

Mark Biggs

Sharing the Lord's Supper Communion Meditation

Ashley Quinn

Debora Biggs

Words of Remembrance and Invitation

Today we celebrate the Spirit,

the breath of church.

Jesus of Nazareth promised this breath would come.

We gather 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

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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Celebration of New Members

As this body and community gathered here today, we join our voices together and offer our welcome.

As this community,

we reaffirm our own faith in the Way of Jesus and welcome you into this community of faith,

enfolding you with our love

and committing ourselves to your care.

In the power of God's Spirit

let us work together as we encourage each other to trust God and strengthen one another to serve others,

that this church may continue to be a place of welcome and grace.

We are grateful for the gifts and talents each of you bring to this place: Your experiences, insights, enthusiasm, questions,

faith, doubts, and abilities for ministry.

Together, we are a Spirit-driven people!

Together, we will work to transform ourselves and our world through Spiritual growth, inclusive community and the pursuit of justice.

Words for the Journey

Though your destination is not yet clear, you can trust the promise of this opening;

Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning

that is at one with your life's desire. Awaken your spirit to adventure;

Hold nothing back,

and learn to find ease in risk;

Soon you will be home in a new rhythm.

For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

May it be so.

May it be so for us.

[johnodonohue]

Postlude

National Avenue Christian Church

417.869.9176 natlave@sbcglobal.net www.nationalavenuecc.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)



STEPHANIE SCOTT-HUFFMAN

Pentecost:
Faith and Practice
4 June 2023