

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 enriches us in this time of celebration together~

Prelude *To God Be the Glory* **MCCHESENEY**
CHANCEL BELLS

Words of Gathering **Ashley and Justin Fleming**

God of every tongue,
we are grateful that in the presence of the Spirit,
we are not asked to forget ourselves but to remember.
To remember where we came from,
to recall the sound of our own cultures and languages.
Help us to heal from those spaces that have demanded assimilation
from us under the guise of unity.
To belong,
we are told we must exalt commonality over particularity.
Teach us the kind of belonging
that is not threatened by those things that make us different
but comes alive at the site of inclusion.
Protect us from communities who only welcome our cultures
as a theatrical symbol of their own benevolence.
Lead us into spaces where our presence is longed for
not as a mark of achievement
but out of the deep recognition
that hope cannot survive on one tongue alone.
Amen. [colearthurriley]

*Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit at the * asterisks.*

***Gathering Hymn** *Spirit* **249**

***Lighting the Community Candle** **Justin Fleming**

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 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.

In this light,
we point to this moment burning in our midst to claim
a hope leading us onward.

May we go with courage.

***Passing of the Peace**

Ashley Fleming

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 heart of peace 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 via check-in. 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 Sacred Story

From the stories of the Church According to Acts Chapter 2

A reading to ground us in our tradition
and spark our imaginations as co-creators.
Amen.

Prayer of the Community

Silence

Here's one thing you must understand about this blessing:
it is not for you alone.

It is stubborn about this.

Do not even try to lay hold of it if you are by yourself,
thinking you can carry it on your own.

To bear this blessing you must first take yourself
to a place where everyone does not look like you or think like you,
a place where they do not believe precisely as you believe,

where their thoughts and ideas and gestures
are not exact echoes of your own.

Bring your sorrow.

Bring your grief.

Bring your fear.

Bring your weariness,
your pain,
your disgust at how broken the world is,
how fractured,
how fragmented

by its fighting,

its wars,

its hungers,

its penchant for power,

its ceaseless repetition

of the history it refuses to rise above.

I will not tell you this blessing will fix all that.

But in the place where you have gathered,

Wait.

Watch.

Listen.

Lay aside your inability to be surprised,

your resistance to what you do not understand.

See then whether this blessing turns to flame on your tongues,

sets you to speaking what you cannot fathom

or opens your ear to a language

beyond your imagining that comes as a knowing in your bones,

a clarity in your heart that tells you this is the reason

we were made:

for this ache that finally opens us,

for this struggle,

this grace that scorches us toward one another

and into the blazing day. [jrichardson]

Music of Slowing Down *Melody of Joy* **BURROUGHS**
CHANCEL BELL CHOIR & KIRSTEN WEISS, VIOLIN

Reflection *I am Sad! Mad! Glad!* **Rev. Simmons**

Music of Response *Wind upon the Waters* **247**

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes & Our Gifts



You are invited to share offering via Paypal (using the QR code on the left) or 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 as it comes to life at NACC.

Music of Reflection *I Sing Out* **HAYES**
CHANCEL CHOIR

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Gratitude

Christie Lancaster

Sharing the Lord's Supper

Elders & Deacons

with Revs. Jenn Simmons & Jody Furnas-Wright

Friends, we can imagine that on that first Pentecost day,
Peter stood up and said to the crowd:
“Whether you are Jew or Greek, Parthian or Mede,
young or old, slave or free,
Cretan or Arab, you are welcome here—
for this is God's table.”

Two thousand years later, as we gather around this table,
we offer similar words of invitation:

All are welcome.

In all seasons of faith, questions, and doubts,
political identities,
mental health and mental illness,
neurodiversity,
men, women, cis, trans, in all expanses of gender,
lesbian, gay, straight, bi-sexual, asexual, questioning,
in all ages, stages and seasons of life,

All are welcome here.

For this table is God's table.

And at this table we proclaim the kin-dom of God.

At this table we are united.

At this table we are hopeful.

At this table we come hungry and leave fed.

At this table there is space for everyone.

At this table the young see visions and the old dream dreams.

And at this table, if you listen closely,

you may just hear the rush of a mighty wind. [adapt/sarahare]

So come, for at this table you are, and always will be, welcome.

Prayer at the Table

Jonathan Lancaster

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

This morning we will receive communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward and to 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.

Communion Music

Musical Meditation

Sending Song

A Jubilant Rondo
CHANCEL BELL CHOIR

DOBRINSKI

Words for the Journey

The One who created all that is calls us by name

and invites us into a life of abundant Love.

**We go out into the world as God's beloved people,
bringing Holy Love to all whom we meet.**

Jesus taught us to love one another as fiercely
and freely as God loves each of us,
with the power that binds us together as the Body of Christ.

**We will embody Christ by shattering stigma
and welcoming all, leaving no one outside.**

The Spirit fills us with the Breath of Life
and urges us to imagine anew how to be Church in the world today.

**We will breathe deeply
and move beyond what has been and what is.**

**We will follow the Spirit and bring hope
and healing to all who live in despair and brokenness.**

We will be the Church!

[Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe]

Postlude

National Avenue Christian Church

417.869.9176 natlave@sbcglobal.net www.nationalavenuecc.com

Rev. Jenn Simmons, Lead Pastor | Ashley Quinn, Pastoral Apprentice

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

Hayley Norton, Communication Coordinator,

Rohit Choudhary, Technical Director | Sarah Cybulski, Finance Coordinator,

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

Give us your feedback! Community Care Survey!



National Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Image Tengyart by on UnSplash

**Pentecost:
Celebrating Emotions!
Being Church:
Caring for our Mental Health
19 May 2024**