#### 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

#### Words of Gathering Dr. Robyn Hagerman & Emily Pearson

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]

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

# \*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* 

#### \*Lighting the Christ Candle

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 Christ Candle is lit.

May this light center us and remind us

We are light.

We are meant to shine.

#### \*Passing of the Peace

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. The QR code/link is in the pews. 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.

#### **Reflecting on the Sacred Story**

From the Biblical Stories from Acts Chapter 2

We tell stories to learn, to grow, to spark more questions.

Today we offer the longings of our heart.

We join with the voices rising, from the past and from today. We join the story.

#### **Blessing the Pathway Adventure**

To those seeking pathways of faith... Our hope for you on this journey, may you stay open, may you stay curious.

Remember, we delight in your questions.

We look forward to getting to see what you notice in the stories of our ancestors, saints, and lives.

As a church, we celebrate and support your passion.

We will share our wisdom and our stories.

We will trust that you will take what you need.

We look forward to learning

from you and growing together.

May it be so.

#### **Prayers of the Community**

**Rev. Jody Furnus-Wright** 

Pausing to listen to our bodies

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 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]

**Reflecting in Song** 

In Water We Grow

375

Reflection Finding our path Rev. Simmons

**Musical Reflection** 

Be a Light CHANCEL CHOIR HAYDEN

# Sharing in Baptism of our beloved Reed Bisso Prayer after Baptism:

Spirit of Christ, your love never fails us.

May we grow in this love as one family among the family of God. May we practice together courage and compassion in lasting solidarity with all our siblings

and neighbors to whom your love binds us forever. Amen.

#### **Offering of Ourselves**

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.

Musical Gift You Say
CHANCEL CHOIR

**SORRENSON** 

#### \* 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**

Dr. Etta Madden

#### **Sharing the Lord's Supper**

with Rev. Jody Furnas-Wright & Ashley Quinn, Elders & Deacons

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.

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, Christ was raised from the grave.

No person, no institution,

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

And so, by the same Spirit, may we experience in these gifts of colorful 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.

[enfleshedliturgy]

#### Prayer at the Table

# Neil Guion

[mjk]

#### **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.

#### **Sending Song**

#### Wind upon the Waters

247

#### **Words for Our Journey**

They told me the Divine is a strict practitioner of the straight and narrow, the cisgender and fixed,

but I have come to know Them as anything

but controlled and controlling.

The Divine is a promiscuous love,

a very queer experience,

an embrace as fluid and changing as water,

as baptism,

as blessing.

I have learned this through pleasure and pain – mine and generations.

Now, I see all around me the strange

and nonconforming ones and cry

Holy, Holy, Holy.

As we go forth, may we add our echoes everywhere we walk,

Holy, Holy, Holy.

It is so.

#### Postlude

#### **National Avenue Christian Church**

417.869.9176 natlave@sbcglobal.net www.nationalavenuecc.com

Rev. Jenn Simmons, Lead Pastor | Ashley Quinn, Pastor for Public Theology

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

Rev. Dr. John White, Theologian in Residence

Jonathan Raney, Music Director | Jennifer Forni, Music Assistant
Alex Bates, Sound Technician | Sarah Cybulski, Finance Coordinator

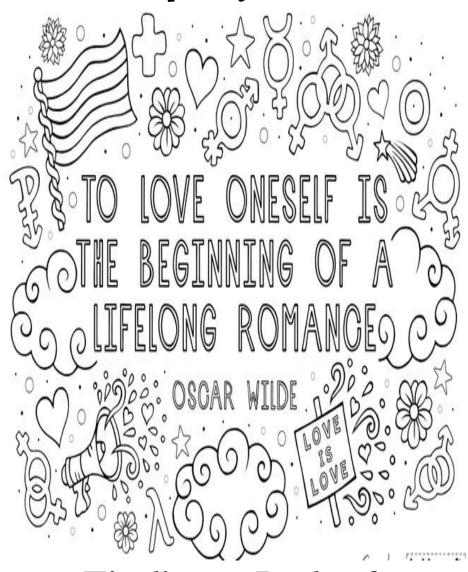
Hayley Norton, Communication Coordinator | Nicholas & Olivia Villaroel, Sextons Greta Allen & Aydia Lancaster, Nursery Caregivers

Kylie Robertson & Claudia Brown-Jackson, UNO Team
John Scroggins, Board Moderator

Dr. Etta Madden, Dr. Robyn Hagerman, Neil Guion, Elders Doug Steere, Emogene Casey, Desmond Simmons, Miles Pearson, Deacons

# National Avenue Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



Finding a Path of
Connection to Ourselves
Pentecost
8 June 2025