

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 *May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You*
John Scroggins, organ & Teresa Norris, piano

In life and in death,
we belong to God,
God is the world that births us.
God is the love we practice.
God is the community we make.
God is the creative force that transitions us
through life to death to life again.
Come, Spirit of New Life!
Draw us ever nearer to the Kindom -
that Holy Place where love is made eternal.

[enfleshedliturgy]

***Lighting the Christ Candle**
From "Night Train to Lisbon" by Pascal Mercier:
I would not like to live in a world without cathedrals.
I need their beauty and grandeur.
I need them against the vulgarity of the world.
I want to look up at the illuminated church windows
and let myself be blinded by the unearthly colors.
I need their luster.
I need it against the dirty colors of the uniforms.
I want to let myself be wrapped in the austere coolness of the churches.
I need their imperious silence.
I need it against the witless bellowing of the barracks yard
and the witty chatter of the yes-men.
I want to hear the rustling of the organ, this deluge of ethereal tones.
I need it against the shrill farce of marches.
I love praying people. I need the sight of them.
I need it against the malicious poison of the superficial & thoughtless.
I want to read the powerful words of the Bible.
I need the unreal force of their poetry.
I need it against the dilapidation of the language
and the dictatorship of slogans.
A world without these things
would be a world I would not like to live in.

May this light center us and remind us
We are light.
We are meant to shine.

none of this is normal.
none of this is new, even as so much is and feels unprecedented.
all of this has been building for a long time.
repairing/restoring/healing is long, slow labor.
some losses can never be made right.
here we are.
may we:
breathe. create. harbor.
share nourishment.
savor the joy that finds us.
cultivate beauty where and how we can.
disrupt all that's killing us, collectively and unequally.
tend life with fierce and tender care. [rev. anna blaedel]

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!

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.

Thankful Melody
Thankful for Friends

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.

In this moment,
we offer our attention.
We offer our hopes.
We let our grief be held.
We trust that in our gathering,
in our slowing down,
in our savoring,
we can notice the Spirit's presence.
We can make love real and known.
We can be sacred space for one another.
Through the joys and the sorrows.
Through the laughter and tears.
Love is made real.
God's presence is made real by our attention.

**We join our voices together:
Weaver of Life, Ancient and Unfolding,
How sacred is your Presence!
We lean on your guidance.
We seek your love.
We open to your transformation.
Provide us bread in body and spirit
to sustain us in faith and solidarity.
Companion us with grace
as we seek to live lives of forgiveness and compassion,
repair and accountability.
We remember those who have supported us
as we seek to support others
in all the mess and glory of this human journey.
Guard our minds and hearts from the temptations of d
and turn our loyalty away from all systems of evil.
For the whole cosmos hums with your wisdom.
Everything that lives, returns to your care.
Our thanks and honor to you,
Gracious Web of Existence,
Our Source and our Home.**

Reflection	Savor	Rev. Simmons
	<p><i>“Savoring calls for a kind of surrender.</i></p> <p><i>Savoring calls me to slowness (I can’t savor quickly),</i></p> <p><i>and to spaciousness (I can’t savor everything at once),</i></p> <p><i>and to mindfulness (I can’t savor without being fully present).”</i></p> <p><i>-Christine Valters Paintner</i></p>	

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.*

*** 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

Sharing the Lord’s Supper
with Rev. Simmons, Elders & Deacons
Faithful One, we come to your table hungry for a taste of your kindom.
In a world where evil and empire come together to hoard and exploit,
we crave the fruits of your Spirit.
We long for kindness.
We dream of peace.
We hope to be disciples of generosity –
sharing and redistributing the resources
you intended for the flourishing of all.
Gathering at your table,
we remember the ordinary gifts of heaven among us.
Those that nurture hope when it’s hard to find.
That surprise us in destruction’s wake.
That bring new life from sites of death.
And sustain our labors of love across generations.
In awe and gratitude, we join together.
Since the beginning,
you have been building a lineage of love and liberation.
Inviting all who wish to belong.
Through the saints and prophets,
you call us to turn from the temptations of power and individualism.
To deepen our commitments
to building communities of care and justice.
And to practice a more radical solidarity across identities
and communities, so that none must struggle alone.
You have shown us the way.
Taken on flesh and dwelled among us.
In Jesus, we come to understand.
God enfleshed as a Brown, Jewish, Palestinian man.
A refugee.
Born into a frowned upon familial structure,
with neither security of wealth nor access to power.
His life is a witness to hope that does not come from climbing ladders
of power or begging for crumbs of dignity.
Hope that is born in community,
nurturing love,
taking risks together,
multiplying what we have and finding it is more than enough.
Jesus shared a meal with his companions, his community,
his chosen family, before he would be arrested.
Filled with love for them,
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.”
After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:
“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”
In remembrance of Jesus,
executed by the state,
faithful to the end.
May this bread and this cup be for us a revival of hope
and a renewal of courage as we encounter

your presence among the ordinary gifts of life.
Through the grace of your sustenance.

[enfleshedliturgy]

Prayer at the Table **Connie Conduct**

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 ***For the Beauty of the Earth*** **#56**

Words for the Journey
May we be fierce in our love for each other.
Fierce in protection of the targeted.
Fierce in proclamations of resistance to domination.
Fierce in pursuit of a more holy way -
where no one falls through the cracks or gets left behind
or abandoned to fend for themselves.
We proclaim the good news with our lives:
Love is with and for us - now and forever.

National Avenue Christian Church
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Rev. Dr. John White, Theologian in Residence | **Jonathan Raney**, Music Director
Alex Bates, Sound Technician | **Sarah Cybulski**, Finance Coordinator
Hayley Norton, Communication Coordinator | **Nicholas & Olivia Villaroel**, Sextons
Greta Allen, Donna Kearney, Ela Stark, Nursery Caregivers
Kylie Robertson & Claudia Brown-Jackson, UNO& Storykeepers Team
John Scroggins, Board Moderator
Claudia Brown-Jackson, Connie Conduct, Elders
Matt Ensely, Barb & Greg Harrell, Deacons

National Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Our Money Story
Savor
9 November 2025