

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.

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,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Christ was birthed among us.
Christ was killed among us.
Christ rises again among us.

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,
may Christ be with us.

Prayer at the Table **Claudia Brown-Jackson**

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.*

A Call to Faithful Action

Sending Song *All Are Welcome*
A reimagining of God of Grace, God of Glory, Melody on page 464

All are welcome at this table,
As they were with Jesus Christ.
All our trials and tribulations
Melt away in this space and time.
God is with us, love surrounds us,
Oh, the joy that fills my soul.
Oh, the joy that fills my soul.

Guide us now, O great creator,
As we contemplate this world.
All around us, fear and chaos,
Will it ever be relieved?
God is with us, love surrounds us,
Oh, the hope that fills my soul.
Oh, the hope that fills my soul.

Bless us now, oh God of compassion,
Light our way that we may lead.
All God’s children join together,
Resting not till all are free.
God is with us, love surrounds us,
Oh, the love that fills my soul.
Oh, the love that fills my soul.

[lyricsJohnScroggins]

Words for the Journey

God, we are co-creators and a part of your great mystery.
May we trust this way of abundance in our lives.
As we discern our way to let what is stirring in us to come forth,
give us room to reflect and process,
courage to make bold decisions,
wisdom to trust our voices,
and grace for ourselves and another.
May we make it so.

National Avenue Christian Church
417.869.9176 communications@nationalavenuecc.com
Rev. Jenn Simmons, Lead Pastor |
Ashley Quinn, Pastor for Public Theology & Justice
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
Claudia Brown-Jackson, Storykeepers Team
Michelle Creed, Board Moderator
Claudia Brown-Jackson, Galen Elliott, Lisa Crump, John Scroggins, Elders
Fred Clark, Kurt Turkington, Chris Brown, Deacons

National Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Abundance:
Grow
13 September 2026