

**National Avenue Christian Church
Online Worship Guide**



Photo by Debby Hudson

***Being Church:
Radically Caring for Community
21 November 2021***

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~

As you gather for worship...

- *Bring a candle (and lighter) and communion elements (coffee, juice, bread, bagels, whatever you have!).*
- *During the Passing of the Peace you will be invited to wave and say hi in the comments!*
- *Before worship, you are invited to share your prayers here:
<https://forms.gle/G1V6Hh37pmiv5D5q7>*
- *Breathe and savor the Spirit gathering in this space.*
- *After worship we will gather on Zoom in our digital fellowship space! We will share the Zoom link on Facebook during communion and invite you to begin gathering for fellowship after worship.*

Welcome to Worship

Words of Gathering

Living God,
we believe in a world made new,
where mourning is turned into dancing
and souls are set free.

**We believe in a world where all are heard
and rivers flow where each may drink;
a world where the harvest
becomes a banquet for all.**

God of all creation,

Candy Adams & Tom Boone

You have given us a world of beauty.
You have given us a place of plenty
where no one needs to hunger...
if Your people learn to share.

**Open our hearts
and teach us Your compassion.**

**Open our minds
and grant us the courage
to count the cost.**

Give us the strength
to cast off all that binds us
to wealth and possessions.

Guide us as we work to bring about Your dream.

**Call us and walk with us
as we become a people
who count the cost
to build community
and work for justice.**

[adapt/ljones]

Song of Gathering

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

718

Centering in the Light of Christ

Candy Adams

The trees in the forest do not compete for resources,
they share nutrients through root systems
and disperse wisdom through webs of fungi.

Let the legacy we leave to one another be this:

**We saw how we were bound up with another
and, like the forest,
in our connection,
we flourished.**

[enfleshedlitugy]

The Christ Candle is lit.

This light is the reminder of love burning in our midst.

Passing of the Peace

Tom Boone

Holy Spirit,
our lives are rarely one thing;
they often make a duet of sorrow and delight.

Breathe with us through our sorrow.

Marvel with us in our delight.

Hold with us the “what is” of today
that we might have rest, courage, and peace
to be present to tomorrow.

[enfleshedliturgy]

This morning, may the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

As we share peace today, we invite you to share this ancient greeting with those gathered. Share a hello or peace sign in the chat!

Life of the Church

Rev. Jenn Simmons

Please let us know you are with us here by filling out this form. 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 from our Ancient Texts

From Gospel of John Chapter 6

Creating Spirit, create in us again.

May it be so.

Prayers of the Community

*As this community,
we invite you to take a few moments to claim the Spirit,
wherever you are today. We invite you to light your candles as we share prayers
at the end of our silence. As we join in prayer, we invite you to share prayers
here <https://forms.gle/G1V6Hh37pmiv5D5q7>.*

Silence

God, you call us to be your hands and feet.

You call us to move past ourselves,
to invest our time, love, energy and resources
to the care of others and the earth.

**Creator of all good things,
we long to be good stewards of the gifts you give us.**

We see people hungry and cold on the streets.
We hear the pain of the marginalized and oppressed,
the excluded and the harmed.

**Move us to bring your light, your hope,
your healing and your restoration.**

We know what it looks like when we invest in love.
It looks like full bellies, warm homes, inclusive spaces and
the hard work of reconciliation.

**God, the giver of abundance,
let us not forget we have the power.**

The power to love beyond ourselves.

**The power to use our gifts to make things better,
for all people.**

**In the name of Love,
may we live our faith.**

[stephaniescott-huffman]

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

We offer the deepest prayers of our hearts.

Prayers of the community.

Good caring presence within us, around us, and above us;

Hold us in a sense of mystery and wonder.

Let the fullness of your goodness be within us and around us.

Let all the world know your ways of caring and generosity.

May we find we have all we need

to meet each day without undue anxiety.

Overlook our many struggles

and help us to release everyone from their struggles.

May we know we are accepted.

Strengthen us that we will reach out to the best,

always with the faith

to rise above the ugly realities of our existence.

And we celebrate the gifts you have given us:

the rich kindom of life's possibilities,

the power to do good

and the moments when we have seen

the glory and wonder of everything.

You evoke life's wisdom.

You evoke life's power.

You evoke life's ultimate meaning.

Always and for everyone.

[adapt/FrancisMacnab]

Amen.

Reflection

Being Church: Creator Sets Free

Rev. Simmons

Music of Response

Crowded Table

RAMSEY

SINGERS: RANDALL BECRAFT, JANE BERG

PATRICK MULHERON. AND COURTNEY WRIGHT, VIOLIN: KIRSTEN WEISS

Invitation to Offering

Thank you for being church and for all the ways you support one another!

To make a financial gift online visit: [here](#)

Music of Response

The Thanksgiving Table

NIX

SINGERS: RANDALL BECRAFT, JANE BERG

PATRICK MULHERON. AND COURTNEY WRIGHT, VIOLIN: KIRSTEN WEISS

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Deb Gallion

Communion Liturgy

Rev. Simmons

From the mountainside Creator Sets Free (Jesus) could see how large the crowd following behind him had become.

He then looked at Friend of Horses (Philip) and said,

“Where will we find enough food to feed all these people?”

He said this to test him, for he already knew what he would do.

Friend of Horses (Philip) took a step back and looked at him with wide eyes.

He was not sure whether Creator Sets Free (Jesus) was serious or not.

With Courage (Andrew), one of the twelve,

the brother of Stands on the Rock (Peter), tried to be helpful and said,

“Here is a boy with five pieces of frybread and two small fish, but how would that possibly be enough?”

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to them,

“Have the people sit down on the grass.”

When they were all settled down,

he had the ones who walked the road with him bring baskets and stand in a circle around him.

He took the five pieces of frybread given by the little boy and held them up to the sky.

He gave thanks to the Great Spirit

and began to break the frybread into smaller pieces
and gave them to his followers to give to the people.
In the same manner he also divided the two fish,
and they were given out to the people.
Everyone ate until they were full!

Communion Hymn

O for a World

683

Sharing at our Tables

At this table,
we remember the people throughout history
who have given expression
to the Spirit of Life as they offered their gifts,
their passions, and their dreams to change the world.
They have given wonderful expression to our connectedness
with the Source of all that exists.
Jesus is the story we gather around and give thanks for.
Human like us, he discerned where this source is found:
in the everyday, in human interaction,
in feeding, in caring, in clothing,
in visiting, in sharing,
in forgiving, in being neighbor.
Jesus urged people to work together
to establish 'the reign of God' by wholehearted generosity,
by eliminating boundaries between people,
by trusting in the goodness of people,
and by working for peace and justice.
**So we take this bread and this cup in memory of Jesus,
And we give our 'Amen' to his belief
that when we live in love, we live in God and God lives in us.**
We break this bread...
bread that invites us to see what the eye cannot see.
We take this cup,

**which reminds us of Jesus' promise to love us always,
and his insistence that we share generously
this love that we have been given.**

We pour this cup...

**the fruit of the vine that
gives enough for us to share.**

[anonymous]

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Etta Madden

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

During this time, you are invited to eat and drink. We are connected by the tables of our lives. Across distance, we are united by sharing together. Our presence, in person or across digital space, brings the Table to life.

Song of Blessing

Let All Things Now Living

717

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.

Postlude

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Rev. Jenn Simmons, Lead Pastor,

Rev. Michelle Scott-Huffman, Adjunct Pastor for Preaching

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Hayley Norton, Communication Coordinator,

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Rev. Dr. John White, Pastoral Care, **Jonathan Raney**, Music Director