

***National Avenue Christian Church
Online Worship Guide***



***Co-Creating with the Unraveling World:
The Mystery of the Body
September 13, 2020***

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, share a selfie, and say hi in the comments!*
- *During our time of prayers, you will be invited to share prayers in the comments.*
- *Share a picture of your worshiping space in the comments or in the NACC group!*
- *Breathe and savor the Spirit gathering in this space.*
- *After worship we will gather on Zoom in our new digital fellowship space! We will share the Zoom link on Facebook during communion and invite you to begin gathering for fellowship after worship!*

Prelude

Words of Gathering

Robyn Hagerman and John Scroggins

*Please join in reading aloud the **bold section**:*

We are known.

As we rise, as we sit down, as we settle into this moment.

We are known.

In our work, in our rest, in our labors.

We are known.

As close as our breath, as I breath in, and as I exhale.

Whew. This knowing, it is overwhelming.

Where could I go to get away from your spirit?

Where could I go to escape your presence?

Called back to work, called to the essential,

in the face of isolation and loneliness,

facing the unknown of the unraveling,

we meet you.

We are marvelously and wonderfully,

mysteriously and soulfully created.

[inspiredbypsalm139]

**We gather in our homes, in our offices,
on our porches, in the midst of our lives
to greet the Spirit here.**

Song of Gathering

When In Awe of God's Creation

Centering in our Bodies

Rev. Jenn Simmons

During this time we will do a short meditation to center in our bodies and pay attention to the Spirit in our midst. At the end of this time, we will light our candles.

The light of Christ, the light of community,
the light of creation is with us.

The Christ Candle is lit

Song of Creation

Morning Has Broken

(vs 1)

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them singing fresh from the Word!

Life of the Church

Rev. Simmons

Reading from our Ancient Texts

from the New Testament Romans Chapter 7

These are the stories of co-creating.
Thanks be to God.

Message for All

Rev. Jody Furnas-Wright

Prayer of the Church

Rev. Michelle Scott-Huffman

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 in the Facebook comments. We will share these prayers aloud at the end of today's musical prayer.

Silence

Loving God, loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we.
Loving God,
all your creation calls you blessed.
Your spirit imprints the whole universe with life and mystery.
Yes, all creation proclaims your love.
We now join this chorus of praise.
Loving God,
all of nature calls you blessed, and so do we.
For you have woven an intimate tapestry
and call it life
and called it good.
In love you have formed a universe
so diverse yet so related,
and into its web you call us forth
to walk the land and swim the sea
with all of humankind.
To the stars
we seem no more than blades of grass.
Yet to you, each of us,
as each blade of grass and each star,
is an irreplaceable treasure,
an essential companion on this journey of love.
Loving God, as you call the whole world into wholeness
guide us with your Spirit

so that we might not be only pilgrims on the earth,
but pilgrims with the earth,
journeying with you.
Open our hearts to understand
the intimate relationship that you have with all creation.
Loving God, loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we.

[Source unknown]

Together, as this community, we offer our prayers...
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayers.
Amen.

Reflection

The Mystery of the Body

Rev. Scott-Huffman

Music of Response

**Voices of the Earth
CHANCEL QUARTET**

Invitation to Offering

Robyn Hagerman

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

**For the Fruit of all Creation
CHANCEL QUARTET**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing at our Tables

Rev. Scott-Huffman and Rev. Simmons

At the tables of our lives,
we pray to awaken in ourselves
the passionate intensity of the Presence
that brought everything and everyone

into existence.

At the tables of our lives,
we pray to stir in us
the yearnings of this creative, energizing Presence,
for new beginnings that could be expressed
in our evolving humanity.

We pray that we may encounter the Divine
less encumbered by the baggage we carry
and more open to new possibilities and to 'What next?'

We pray seeking empathic consciousness
with all that is, to grow in awareness
that all are one,
that all are interconnected,
that all brings us into existence.

**To being 'evolutionaries'
open to the power at work in us,
willing to co-operate with this Presence
and able to embody new possibilities for humanity,
if only we co-operate with the Presence within us;
we give our Amen.**

[bsanguin]

Holy One,
each and every day you ask us to join you
in the recreation of the world.

You invite us to name our mistakes and to begin again
each and every morning as the new day dawns.

We confess we have broken the relationship
with your beloved creation.

We have allowed our wants to be more important
than the needs of all your creation.

Today, at the tables of our lives, we once again commit ourselves
to be the kind of people who do not look away.

Today, at the tables of our lives, we once again ask for grace
to begin anew as co-creators with you, of heaven on earth.

We take the bread of our lives made from the elements of the earth.

We break it, we bless it, and we share it—

remembering your body given for all.

We take this cup filled with the fruit of the vine.

We pour it, we bless it, and we share it—

remembering your blood poured out for the life of the world.

Prayer of Blessing

Rev. Furnas-Wright

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. Please share your table with us in the comments!

Passing of the Peace

Blessing of New Leaders

As we share peace today, we invite you to comment on this thread or join us in zoom! Give a high-five, a hello or a selfie so we can see and greet one another!

Song for the Journey

Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill

GOD'S CHURCH

506 Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill

Refrain D Em7/D G/DA/DD G Bm7/A G A

Heal-er of our ev-'ry ill, light of each to-mor-row,

F#m7 Bm Em7 F#7 G Em A/C# D Fine

give us peace be-yond our fear, and hope be-yond our sor-row.

Stanzas Bm F#m/A G

1. You who know our fears and sad-ness, grace us with your
 2. In the pain and joy be-hold-ing, how your grace is
 3. Give us strength to love each oth-er, ev-'ry sis-ter,
 4. You who know each thought and feel-ing, teach us all your

F Em D/F# G Bm A To refrain

peace and glad-ness, Spir-it of all com-fort: fill our hearts.
 still un-fold-ing, give us all your vi-sion: God of love.
 ev-'ry broth-er, Spir-it of all kind-ness: be our guide.
 way of heal-ing, Spir-it of com-pas-sion: fill each heart.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1987
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HEALERS
 88.63 w. piano

God is the God of the living:

Words for the Journey

Rev. Scott-Huffman

May the deep blessings of the earth be with us.

May the fathomless soundings of seas surge in our soul.

May boundless stretches of the universe echo in our depths

to open us to wonder,

to strengthen us for love,

to humble us with gratitude,

that we may find ourselves in one another,

that we may lose ourselves in gladness,

that we give ourselves to peace.

[jpnewell]

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