

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



***Photography by Stephanie Scott-Huffman***

***Eastertide: A Season of Joy  
The Pillars of Joy  
May 2, 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!*
- *During our time of prayers, you will be invited to share prayers in the comments.*
- *Share a picture of your worshiping space in the NACC group!*
- *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.*

### Words of Gathering

**Peter Browning**

A healthy perspective really is the foundation of joy and happiness,  
because the way we see the world  
is the way we experience the world.  
Changing the way we see the world  
in turn changes the way we feel and the way we act,  
which changes the world itself. [Lama, Dalai]

We gather in worship to shift our perspective.  
To see another way.  
To look at the world anew, together.

Song of Gathering

**Morning Has Broken**

GOD 53 Morning Has Broken

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has  
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet  
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am Dm GW C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931  
MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

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arr. © 1987 CRC Publications

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Centering in the Light of Christ

**John Scroggins**

As we light the Christ candle,  
Let us dwell on how the light of Joy  
Illuminates the lives of God's children.  
Where there is darkness—  
**We radiate light.**  
Where there is prejudice—  
**We radiate light.**

Where there is grief—

**We radiate light.**

And where there is Joy—

**We radiate light.**

The light of Christ is Joy incarnate.

It is a light unto our path,

Illuminating the minds of those who would claim it.

It is the beacon that shows the way,

In our fight for equality and justice,

For every human being without exception.

For we are all created in the light of Christ's Joy.

The light of Christ warms

The coldest places in our hearts.

Where doubt, fear and sorrow thrive and multiply,

the light of Christ restoreth our souls,

Illuminating the way to equality, love, compassion and Joy.

Let this light represent the good news in the Gospel,

For every sibling-

**God loves you—period.**

[johnscroggins]

*Lighting the Christ Candle*

Life of the Church

**Rev. Jenn Simmons**

Reading from our Ancient Texts

From the Gospel according the John Chapter 15

“Joy is a way of approaching the world.”

[thebookofjoy]

As we hear and receive the words of our ancient texts,

may we stay open to learning.

Moment 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.*

## *Silence*

Spirit of Truth,  
all that has shaped us -  
our experiences of joy and pain, both,  
are held in your embrace with care.  
We take comfort that you know what is in our hearts.  
You meet us in our intentions, and nurture what is good.  
You take delight in our desire to be generous and kind.  
But where there is love-within,  
striving to become an outward expression,  
and still doing harm nonetheless,  
come with your gentle correction.  
When the limitations of our knowledge and experience  
inevitably mean we do wrong even when we strive to do right -  
using words that sting or pronouns that misgender,  
unknowingly living in complicity with systems that hurt our neighbors,  
or otherwise furthering power dynamics that demean -  
when others care enough to hold us accountable  
and believe we can do better,  
may we be less interested in defending ourselves  
and more interested in learning a new lesson of love.  
May we be most concerned with the impact of our actions on others -  
listening, reflecting, and changing course.  
May we not linger too long in wallowing or guilt,  
nor expect those we harm to tend my discomfort.  
Guide my discernment in what I need to hold or let go.

If we feel insecure, may we remember what is true:

**We all mess up. A lot.**

**Correction is an act of love.**

**Evil has taught us so many lies we must unlearn.**

**We need each other - for this work of collective liberation.**

At each day's end,

may I rest in the knowledge that I am loved,

I am valuable,

and my persistence in showing-up to the needs of the world with humility, courage, and conviction will be made fruitful in you.

Amen.

We hold the joys and concerns of our community...

*(We read and say the prayers lifted in our community. After each prayer you are invited to join in saying: Loving God, **you are there.**)*

Reflection

**Rev. Scott-Huffman**

Music of Response

**Seasons of Joy      Leavitt & Marcus  
CHANCEL CHORAL QUARTET**

Invitation to Offering

**Peter Browning**

*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

**Threads of Joy      Foley  
CHANCEL CHORAL QUARTET**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Deb Gallion**

Sharing at our Tables

**Rev. Scott-Huffman & Rev. Furnas-Wright**

When Jesus gathered at table he took the bread,  
gave thanks to you,

and broke the bread saying,  
“**take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.**

**Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks to you and said  
“**drink from this all of you, this is my life, poured out for you and for  
the hopes of reconciliation.**

**Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

May these gifts of bread and cup,  
remind us that we are a part of the Body of Christ,  
that we are interdependent with each other as Christ’s body,  
reflecting your diverse image in the world.

By your spirit, may we live out this oneness,  
one with each other and in each other’s struggles,  
and joys.

Through your beloved Jesus Christ,  
with the love of the Holy Spirit,  
in your church- all love and devotion is yours, O God.

Prayer of Blessing

**Deb Gallion**

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.*

Passing of the Peace

**John Scroggins**

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

Song of Blessing

***Be Thou My Vision***

## Be Thou My Vision

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Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,  
 thou my re - deem - er, my love thou hast won,  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

WORDS: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

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Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House

Words for the Journey**Rev. Scott-Huffman**

Seeking out every chance to do things differently,  
 stirring up what has grown stale and stagnant,  
 supporting one another through periods that deaden and dull,  
 we are accompanied by the Spirit  
 to be creative agents of love  
 and justice through the wilderness of life.

**May it be so.**

[enfleshedliturgy]

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