



WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 8, 2024 AT EIGHT FORTY-FIVE
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

Voluntary: Savior of the Nations, Come! BWV 659 J. S. Bach

Welcome.....Carol Cavin-Dillon
Please take a moment to let us know you are here today by either filling out the attendance form in the pew or by visiting westendumc.org/attendance. If you are a first-time guest with us today, please share a way to connect so that we can share more information about West End UMC with you!

Introit: On Jordan's Banks William Monks

Lighting of the Advent Candle.....Darling Family

† Processional Hymn No. 213: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty GatesTruro

† Call to Worship Rea Green

Liturgist: God's love shines upon us;

People: illuminate and guide us along our path.

Liturgist: God's love refines us.

People: Today, tomorrow, and forevermore, continue to perfect us in love.

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

we come today rough, broken, and unfinished.

We do not love you with our whole hearts, we do not love our neighbors, and too often, we do not love ourselves.

Cleanse us, purify us, give us your gentle love, your pure peace, and your shining hope.

Let our hearts be steadfast and sure as we go about our days, knowing we are held in your kind and loving hands.

† Silent Confession

† Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

† Passing the Peace

Liturgist: As a forgiven and reconciled people, let us exchange signs of reconciliation and love. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

† Gloria Patri.....No. 71

Glory be to the Father

and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning,

is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Liturgist: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

People: With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness that she may grow in service with others. We will pray for her to be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

† Commendation and Welcome

Liturgist: Members of the household of God, I commend Eleanor Arta to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you, Eleanor Arta, and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to participate faithfully in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

† Musical Response No. 611, St. 1

Child of blessing, child of promise,

baptized with the Spirit's sign;

with this water God has sealed you

unto love and grace divine.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for IlluminationIsabel Baxter
As your Holy Spirit spoke to the prophets of old, speak to us now through your Word, that by listening to your voice we, too, will make a way for your hope to come into the world. Amen.

A Lesson from the Old Testament..... Malachi 3:1-7

Response to the Lesson

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Moment

Children's church is located in Scales Chapel, which is down the hall from the sanctuary.

If it's your first time, a grown-up should please follow us after the children's moment to drop off.

Pick up will at the same location immediately following the service.

Sermon: Growing Pains.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Affirmation of Faith Aimee Baxter

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made Flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Joys and Concerns of the Church

Salutation

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory: E'en So, Lord Jesus, Come Quickly Paul O. Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,

who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,

who was and is and is to come; sing Holy, Holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,

rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;

they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

(adapted from Revelation 22)

† Doxology No. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 196: Come, Thou Long-Expected JesusHyfrydol

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain).....Veni Emmanuel

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel!

Voluntary: Savior of the Nations, Come! BWV 661 J. S. Bach

The postlude is the final Alleluia of our worship.

All are invited to remain for a time of joyful prayer.

† *The congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The altar flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane and Chase Delony, Frances Delony, Patty Chadwell, Lillian and Robert Chadwell, and Ellen and James Hofstead by Patty Delony.

Eleanor Arta Selden, daughter of Blerta and Erik Selden, is presented for baptism today in the early service.

Elizabeth Graham Rose Kwasek, daughter of Jamie and Matt Kwasek, will be presented for baptism in today's late service.

Today's liturgy was written by Hampton Randall, Youth Ministry intern.

Music Participants

Sanctuary Choir
Andrew Risinger: Director / Organist

Today's Music

Charles Wesley's original text for *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* consisted of two stanzas of eight lines each. In some hymnals, where the tune Stuttgart is used, those two verses are broken into four verses of four lines. The text is almost exactly the same in every hymnal that includes this hymn. Wesley used several false rhymes: "Jesus-release us," "deliver-forever," and "Spirit-merit." Wesley was quite clever in these – one generally doesn't notice them unless they're pointed out. Wesley also uses a lot of repetition to make some key themes more obvious. For example, in the second stanza, he repeats the word "born" at the beginning of three consecutive lines—focusing on the nature of the incarnation.

Bulletin Cover Art

Malachi by Duccio di Buoninsegna circa 1305. Traditional to Middle Ages religious artwork, this painting depicts Malachi as a white man, balding, and with curly white hair and beard. He has a golden halo around his head, and he holds a scroll that extends outside the boundaries of the decorative circle that surrounds Malachi. He wears a green tunic and blue robe, as well. The entire portrait is framed in a deep blue.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

♦ **Prayer Requests:** Babs White; Kathy Osten; those who are navigating the holidays in new ways this year; individuals in the hospital having procedures, recovering from illness or injury, those in treatment, and the families that are caring for them; peace in Palestine/Israel, Haiti, Sudan, and Ukraine.

If you have an emergency and need to contact one of the pastors after hours, please call 615.321.8500, Ext. 8853. The Pastor-on-Call for December 9-15 will be Rev. Stacey Harwell-Dye. To submit a prayer request, visit westendumc.org/prayerrequest.

FAITHFUL GIVING 2025

Help our church thrive and grow in 2025. Our church depends on the financial support of its members to carry out the ministries and programs that allow West End United Methodist Church to be the loving light of Christ, connecting, transforming. By turning in your 2025 Estimate of Giving, you help our church staff and leaders plan and budget for the coming year. You can find a estimate card in the pew back, scan the QR code, or visit westendumc.org/estimatetnow to turn in your estimate.

As of December 4, we have received

287 Estimates of Giving for 2025 for a total of \$1,903,504

Advent Wreath Workshop

Sunday, December 8 ♦ 4-5:30 p.m. ♦ Gym

Join us this afternoon as we gather in the gym to make wreaths to prepare for the Advent season of waiting and hoping for the birth of Christ. We hope to see everyone there, no registrations required! The wreath making event will include an Advent worship time, celebrating the 2nd Sunday of Advent! Resources and devotional materials will be available for church families to observe lighting the Advent wreath candles in their homes during the Advent season. We'll also have crafts, cookies and cocoa, and a mission station! Bring diapers and baby wipes for our collection to support Nashville Diaper Connection.

ADVENT SPECIAL OFFERING - LUNCHES FOR HOPE

This year's Advent Offering will go to the Lunches for Hope Program in the Dassa-Zoume region of Benin, Africa. The funds will be used by former West End member Hilarion Vegba who worshiped and studied with us when he was enrolled in a program at Vanderbilt. Thirty girls will receive lunch five days a week for nine months of school. Before this program, girls without this lunch money asked for the money from men who took advantage of their situation. West End funded this program last year and there was a dramatic decrease in girls dropping out of school, early pregnancy and trafficking. Our goal is \$10,800 which will fully fund lunches for two years. You can give online at westendumc.org/give or by check with "Advent Special Offering" in the memo line.

ADVENT MINISTRY MARKETS IN REED HALL TODAY

Don't miss our annual Advent Ministry Market that begins today in Reed Hall! Markets will be from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm on December 1, 8, 15, and 22 in Reed Hall. Come purchase items that help support a social mission here and around the world!



SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT // DECEMBER 18

Services of the Longest Night, traditionally held on the longest night of the year, are meant to hold space for those who may need a quiet place for reflection, prayer, and tears. In the midst of the darkest time of the year, this service draws people into a community of those who "get it," where candles are lit as a reminder that even in the midst of darkness, the Light of Christ is coming into the world.

On Wednesday, December 18, at 6 pm, West End will hold a Service of the Longest Night, both in-person and online. We will gather to hear words from Scripture, light candles, hear comforting music, receive Communion, and pray. Those joining us online will be able to submit prayer requests and someone in the Sanctuary will light candles on your behalf. Even if you are not experiencing a difficult season yourself, you are invited to attend and pray for those who are.



MAKE SOMEONE'S HOLIDAY SPECIAL: DELIVER POINSETTIAS

Each year, West End delivers Christmas Poinsettias to members of the church who are homebound or have experienced the death of a loved one in the last year. If you are able to make deliveries of December 9-12, register westendumc.org/poinsettidelivery. Deliveries do not require long visits and can also be done on your schedule.



West End UMC's Annual
Candlelighting Service

Sunday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m.

CHILD LED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE // DECEMBER 24 AT 3 PM

All ages of children and families are invited to participate in our Child Led Christmas Eve Worship Service on Tuesday, December 24 at 3 pm. We are excited to have our children lead us in worship and participate in bringing the story of Jesus' birth to life for us on Christmas Eve. Any children who want to be included are invited to dress in costume to provide a visual image of the scripture. Children can choose to be a shepherd, a Wise One, one of the animals, or an angel. This service is lots of fun for all ages, and we hope you will join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES // DECEMBER 24 AT 5 AND 10 PM

Join us at 5 or 10 pm on Tuesday, December 24 for our Christmas Eve services that will include carols, communion, and candles. For our 10 pm service, we will have the choirs, communion, and candles. An Organ Prelude begins at 9:30 pm. These traditional services are highlights of our West End worship, celebrating Christ's birth as a gift for all time.

OEF CHRISTMAS PARTY

All 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders are invited to join us for a Christmas Party on Friday, December 13 from 6 to 8 pm in McWhirter Hall. We'll eat, play Christmas-themed games, and watch a festive Christmas classic movie. Each child should bring a gift-wrapped candy bar for the candy bar game and a donation of new men's socks for the Room in the Inn closet. RSVP at westendumc.org/oefparty by December 10.

GIFTS FOR KIDS IN FOSTER CARE

We are excited to offer an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for area kids in foster care. Gifts need to be at the church no later than December 10. Find out more at westendumc.org/christmasgifts.

YOUTH PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Wear your favorite Christmas Pajamas and join us on Friday, December 13 from 5:30-9:30 pm. We will travel together to the houses of Connor Harris, Peter Bigelow and Alex Stirling.

Bring a fast food gift card to share with our friends who live on the street and a gift for our Dirty Santa Gift Exchange! DO NOT BUY your gift - try to find something unique in your home to exchange! RSVP to Emily at erobbins@westendumc.org by December 8, if you plan to come.

DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING // PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Our December offering will go towards the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which is one pot of money we use to help people with their mortgage, rent, utilities, and bus fare to get back home. Your generosity to this fund in December is what we use to budget for the upcoming year.

CLOTHING AND OTHER SUPPLIES NEEDED

Our RITI and Quiet Place guests have access to our clothing closet, and we can always use your gently used men's clothing, shoes, and sock donations. New donations of underwear and undershirts are always needed. Our Amazon wishlist with our top needs on it at westendumc.org/clothingcloset.

YOUTH SECOND SUNDAY SERVICE

All youth are invited to join us at Trinity Community Commons next Sunday, December 8 from 4:45-7 pm for dinner, board games, and gift creation! If you ever want to help us provide a meal any of our 2nd Sundays, email Emily at erobbins@westendumc.org for the list.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the gift cards to support our college students through exam week. Our students are so grateful for your love and care!

A Warm Welcome

Welcome to West End United Methodist Church!
We seek to be the loving light of Christ in Nashville and beyond.

We gather as the people of God with a wide range of religious backgrounds, education levels, political, and theological perspectives, and we value that diversity. We welcome and celebrate the gifts God has given to all without regard to gender identity, race, sexual orientation, economic or family status, ethnicity, or mental or physical ability.

Scan this QR Code or visit westendumc.org/links to register your attendance with us, find out more about our Sunday Morning Classes, sign up for our weekly email, and learn more about the different ways to give at West End.



We believe that God loves everyone unconditionally!

West End Staff

Members of West End UMC Ministers

Rev. Dr. Carol Cavin-Dillon.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Will McLeaneSpiritual Formation
Rev. Maggie Jarrell..... Children and Families
Rev. Stacey Harwell-Dye..... Mercy and Justice
Rev. Shannon BaxterCongregational Connection
Rev. Aimee Baxter.....Young Adults
Emily C. Robbins.....Minister of Youth
Dr. Matthew Phelps.....Minister of Music
Andrew RisingerAssociate Minister of Music
Rea Green..... Pastoral Intern
Hampton Randall..... Youth Ministry Intern
Nico Zavala.....Music Intern
Shelley Kuhlmeier.....Communications Director
Lazaro Kapella.....Church Financial Officer

Jim Raver.....Property Operations Manager
Shannon MeffertHR Generalist
Corye NelsonPreschool Executive Director
Christina ShoptawPreschool Operations Manager
Cheryl ReevesPreschool Curriculum Coordinator
Karina GurgenzidzeChildcare Coordinator
Cindy Siemer..... Senior Administrative Assistant
Andrew Callis..... Administrative Assistant
Tosha JacksonReceptionist
Kathryn WareReceptionist
Chase BencinMedia Coordinator
Ronnie Franklin..... Building Superintendent
Andy Ulm.....Safety and Security Coordinator
Richard ThomasCustodian



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