

WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24, 2024 AT THREE O'CLOCK
CHILD-LED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

GATHERING

Voluntary: The Holy Boy John Ireland
Variations on *Adeste Fideles* Raynor Taylor

Welcome Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Opening Hymn No. 234: O Come, All Ye Faithful, *v. 1 and 3* Adeste Fideles
**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

† Call to Worship Watson Ward
Leader: Animals came to prepare your bed.
All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!
Leader: Shepherds stood guard, marveled and said:
All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!
Leader: Angels sang to calm your cries.
All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!
Leader: And all the world gave one great sigh.
All: Ah, Lord Jesus, you have come!

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession
**God Emmanuel,
forgive us for forgetting the magic of this night, for focusing on
ourselves and what we need to do instead of the miracle of Jesus' birth.
Forgive us for missing the message of hope, peace, and justice; and for
choosing what is easy over what is loving.
Inspire in us this night a love of you and a love of neighbor, and help us
to live as people changed by your presence here in our world.**

† 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.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

† Hymn No. 245: The First Noel Traditional English Carol
*Children of all ages are invited to come gather at the front of the Sanctuary
for the "star parade" and the Christmas participation story. Gather at the star while singing
"The First Noel," then follow it around the Sanctuary and back to the chancel area.
Children may return to their seats during the singing of "Away in a Manger."*

Christmas Participation Story Maddie Grace Duncan
Eva Grace Woodall
Noah Bakker

*For the Christmas Participation Story, everyone is invited to join in the storytelling.
Our storytellers will read, but whenever they say certain words,
everyone is invited to respond with specific phrases.
The words to listen for and the responses are...*

Shepherds	"Hey, Sheep!"
Sheep	"Baa!"
Angel	"Hallelujah!"
Good News	"Yes!" (with a fist pump)
Great Joy	Cheering
Baby	"Awww"

† Hymn No. 217: Away in a Manger, *v. 1 and 2* Away in a Manger
**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Offertory: Pastorale Symphony (from *Messiah*).....Handel, arr. Gower

† Doxology No. 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

† The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord our God is with us. Lift your hearts and voices high. Let us give thanks to the Lord everywhere and at all times:

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Leader: God, all glory be to you at this blessed Christmas time, for the gift of your own Son, born a poor child, peasant King. For the love you sent us, for the life he shared with us, for the sacrifice he made, Lord of lords, King of kings.

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Leader: On the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took the bread, blessed it, and broke it as he said, "Take, eat, this is my body." After the supper he took the cup, gave you thanks, and giving it said, "Drink this cup, it is my life, poured out for you and everyone."

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Leader: When we eat this holy bread, when we drink this holy cup, we his presence sense anew, and his victory await. We remember and proclaim what your Son has done for us, in his life and in his death, as he rises and ascends.

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Leader: Now accept our sacrifice as we surrender ourselves. Send your Holy Spirit down on us here and on our gifts. Help us through this bread and wine to know the presence of our Christ. Make us one with him today and with humankind, we pray.

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

† 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.**

Breaking of the Bread and Taking of the Cup

*The the congregation is invited to join in the following hymns
with members of the Youth Vocal Ensemble:
229, 230, and 239*

† Prayer after Receiving

**Eternal God,
we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit
to give ourselves to others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

† Closing Hymn No. 246: Joy to the World, *v. 1 and 4*..... Antioch

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room;
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

† BenedictionMaggie Jarrell

Voluntary: Fanfare on *Antioch*.....Gerre Hancock

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

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

*The flowers this Christmas Eve are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Anne Harrison Webber by Mark O'Bryan and Montgomery Smith.
Special thanks to The Tulip Tree for decorating the sanctuary this season.*

Music Participants

*Members of the Youth Vocal Ensemble
Matthew Phelps: Director / Organist*

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 budget for the coming year. You can find a card in the pew back, scan the QR code, or visit westendumc.org/estimatetnow to turn in your estimate.



***As of December 18, we have received
295 Estimates of Giving for 2025 for a total of \$1,951,834***

DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING

Our December offering will go toward 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.

ADVENT SPECIAL OFFERING - LUNCHESES 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.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON DECEMBER 29

On Sunday, December 29, there will be one worship service at 10 a.m. with no Sunday School that morning. Childcare will be provided for ages 2 and under. There will also be no children's church during the service.

NEW YEAR YOGA EVENT // JANUARY 5

Start the new year with peace, purpose, and mindful movement. This 2-hour workshop, from 2-4 p.m. in Room 324, is perfect for all levels—no experience is needed. You'll enjoy a gentle yoga flow, a calming guided meditation, and space to reflect and set meaningful intentions for the year ahead. Register at westendumc.org/yogaevent.

TAIZÉ LABYRINTH SERVICE // JANUARY 5

Experience the beauty and peace of Taizé worship around the labyrinth in the 4th Story Theater. Our labyrinth service that is usually on New Year's Eve will take place on Sunday, January 5 at 5:30 pm. Opportunity is offered for individual prayers and anointing for healing. The Taizé team will welcome you with beautiful music and warm smiles. Let go of the burdens of 2024 and enter 2025 with renewed hope and peace.

FIRST WEDNESDAY: RENEWAL LEAVE DISCOVERIES WITH PASTOR CAROL // JANUARY 8

Join us on January 8 for a time of fellowship and learning around the table. The Rev. Dr. Carol Cavin-Dillon will lead our programming as she shares what she learned and discovered during her recent renewal leave. Supper starts at 5:15 p.m., and the event begins at 6 p.m. Register for dinner and the event at westendumc.org/firstwednesday.

CONFIRMATION KICKOFF // JANUARY 12

All 6th graders are invited to join us for Confirmation this spring as they learn about the United Methodist Church and explore their own beliefs. Confirmation begins January 12. For more information visit westendumc.org/confirmation.

WEST END FAMILY MEET UP // JANUARY 26

Families are invited to join us for pancakes and play time in the gym on Sunday, January 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ONE DAY NEW MEMBER CLASS // FEBRUARY 9

Anyone that has been interested in becoming a member of the church make plans to attend the one day membership class on February 9 at 9:45 a.m. We'll meet in the 4th Story Theater for about an hour and a half. Register at westendumc.org/membership.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THEOED NASHVILLE

February 23 at 4:30 p.m. at the Woolworth Theater

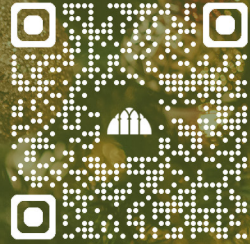
West End UMC is joining Emory's Candler School of Theology to host TheoEd in Nashville! TheoEd is a faith-based speaker series that brings together leading thinkers in the church and the academy to give the talk of their lives in 20 minutes or less. The speakers for TheoEd Nashville are Julian Davis Reed, Lanecia Rouse, Sam Wells, and Suzanne Stabile. Learn more about TheoEd at their website theoed.com.

Welcome to West End United Methodist Church!

We seek to be the loving light of Christ in Nashville and beyond.

We are glad you have chosen to worship with us for our annual Christmas Eve Services. We would love to know you are here. Please scan this QR code and register your attendance with us.

You will also find a link that will allow you to give to our December Communion Offering that benefits our Pastor's Discretionary Fund or our Advent Offering that benefits the Lunches for Hope Program in the Dassa-Zoume region of Benin, Africa.



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