



WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24, 2024 AT FIVE O'CLOCK
CHRISTMAS EVE

GATHERING

Voluntary: Fantasy on “God Rest Ye Merry”arr. W. T. Best
In the Bleak Midwinterarr. Allen Orton Gibbs
In dulci júbilo settings by Bach, Dupré, Bach

Welcome.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

Introit: Torches..... John Joubert

† Processional Hymn No. 234: O Come, All Ye Faithful, *v. 1-3*.....Adeste Fideles

† Call to WorshipStacey Harwell-Dye

Liturgist: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Liturgist: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

People: and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Liturgist: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession

God with us,

**we are in awe of you, born to us as a child:
small, and needy, and held.**

**We are grateful to belong to a God who dares
approach us with trust and tenderness.**

**Forgive us for when we have forgotten your
nearness and gentleness toward us and others.**

**As we honor your birth, may the hope that has
waned throughout the year be renewed;**

May we remember you are with us.

**May we rejoice in you, the one who comes
in flesh for all flesh, Emmanuel.**

† 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.

† An Act of Praise

Antiphon



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo-ple on earth.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

† Prayer for IlluminationShannon Baxter

**Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we,
like the shepherds, might hear with joy the good news of Christ’s birth
for us and for all the world; through Jesus Christ, your Word made
flesh. Amen.**

† A Lesson from the Gospel.....Luke 2:1-20

† Response to the Lesson

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

People: Thanks be to God.

† Hymn No. 218: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Carol

Christmas Meditation: Good Will to All.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Nicene Creed, No. 880.....Shannon Baxter

We believe in one God,

**The Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Salutation and Prayers of the People

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: Let us pray.

Offertory: Unto Us a Son Is Born.....David Willcocks

Unto us is born a Son, king of quires supernal:
see on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal.
Christ, from heav'n descending low, comes on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know, becradled in the manger.
This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder,
so he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer.
Of his love and mercy mild this the Christmas story;
and O the Mary's gentle child might lead us up to glory.
O and A, and A and O, cum cantibus in choro,
let our merry organ go, benedicamus Domino.

(tr. G. R. Woodward)

† 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!

† Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

† Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

† Sanctus and Benedictus

Introduction optional

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.


SENDING FORTH

Prayer of Remembrance




Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

Prayer of Consecration



Through your Son, Je - sus _ Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in your Ho - ly



Church, all glo - ry and hon - or is yours, Fa - ther. A - men.

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.**

The Breaking of Bread and Taking of the Cup

*After the singing of "O Holy Night,"
the congregation is invited to join in the following hymns: 217, 230, and 216.*

† Prayer after Receiving

Celebrant: You have given yourself to us, Lord.
People: Now we give ourselves for others
Celebrant: Your love has made us a new people;
People: as a people of love we will serve you with joy.
Celebrant: Your glory has filled our hearts;
People: help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

*The pastor will light a candle from the Advent wreath
and then light the candles of the candle lighters.
They will light the candles of those nearest the center aisle.
Tip the unlit candle when lighting your candle.
After all candles are lit, the choir and congregation will sing.*

Hymn No. 239: Silent Night, Holy Night.....Stille Nacht

**Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

Christmas Proclamation and Lighting of the Christ Candle

† Recessional Hymn No. 246: Joy to the World..... 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.**

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

† Recessional Hymn No. 246: Joy to the World, *cont.*
Joy to the word, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: Seven-Fold AmenPeter Lutkin

Voluntary: Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabellaarr. Keith Chapman
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.*

*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.*

Today's liturgy is an adaptation of "A Prayer for Christmastide" by Cole Arthur Riley.

Music Participants

Chamber Choir
Matthew Phelps: Director / Assisting at Organ
Andrew Risinger: Organist
Patricia Cullum: soprano soloist

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 - 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.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON DECEMBER 29

On Sunday, December 29, there will be one worship service at 10 am with no Sunday School that morning. Childcare will be provided for ages 2 and under, but there will 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 pm 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.

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 pm, and the event begins at 6 pm. 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 am to 1 pm.

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 am. We'll meet in the 4th Story Theater for about an hour and a half. Register at westendumc.org/membership.

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 an estimate 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*



*Let go of the burdens of 2024
and enter 2025 with
renewed hope and peace.*

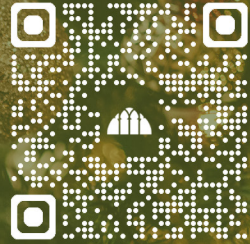
Labyrinth Taize Service
Sunday, January 5 ♦ 4th Story Theater ♦ 5:30 p.m.

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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2200 WEST END AVENUE ♦ NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203
615.321.8500 ♦ WESTENDUMC.ORG