



WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 15, 2024 AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

Voluntary: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Gilbert R. Martin

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: Creator of the Stars of Night..... Plainsong

Lighting of the Advent Candle..... Hannah Smith and Leah Martell

† Processional Hymn No. 209: Blessed Be the God of Israel Merle's Tune

† Call to WorshipMaggie Jarrell
Liturgist: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!
People: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!
Liturgist: Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice!
People: Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice!

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession
**God of joy,
we give thanks today for that infectious spirit that you pour into each
of us.
As we anticipate in this season that you are not only coming, but that
you are near, our hearts leap!
Yet, we realize that at times your joy doesn't flow out of us toward those
who hunger for it. We receive yet fail to give.
Forgive us for the ways we stifle your Spirit by keeping it to ourselves.
May our hearts be so filled with you that we can't help but proclaim your
joy to the world through acts of kindness, mercy, and self-giving love.**

† 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.**

Anthem: Springs in the Desert Arthur Jennings
Say to them that are of a fearful heart, be strong, fear not:
behold, your God will come and save you.
The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad;
and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.
For in the wilderness shall waters break out
and streams flow in the desert.
And the parched ground shall become a pool
and their thirsty land springs of water.
A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the way of holiness;
the redeemed shall walk there:
and the ransomed of the Lord shall return
with songs and everlasting joy:
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
(Isaiah 35)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination Brandon Rich
**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..... Zephaniah 3:14-20

Response to the Lesson
Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

† Hymn No. 730: O Day of God Draw NighSt. Michael

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: The Joy of the LordCarol Cavin-Dillon

† Affirmation of Faith Will McLeane

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: O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion (from *Messiah*) G. F. Handel

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bare a son.

And shall call his name, Emmanuel. God With Us.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,

get thee up into the high mountain;

O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,

lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid;

say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine;

for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

(Isaiah 40:9 and 60:1)

† 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. 202: People, Look East Besancon

† Benediction

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

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel!

Voluntary: On Jordan’s BanksAaron David Miller

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

Carolyn Bass and George Harrison Cate, Jr. and Emmie Jackson and Hunter

McDonald, Jr. by Cathy Cate Sullivan and Hunter McDonald III.

A rose on the table celebrates the birth of Walker Catherine Harris, born Dec. 3, 2024 to Andrew and Meryl McVicker Harris. She is also welcomed by her grandparents, West End members Dan and Susan McVicker, and by her aunt, Morgan McVicker.

Today's liturgy was written by Rev. Shannon Baxter.

Music Participants

Chancel Choir

Matthew Phelps: Director / Assisting at Organ

Andrew Risinger: Organist / Accompanist

Scott Brons, tenor

Bethany DiSantis, alto

Today's Music

The processional hymn is a lyrical paraphrase of the "Canticle of Zechariah" in which Zechariah, the father of John of Baptist, prophesied that his son would prepare the way for God's "mighty Savior." *Merle's Tune* was written by Hal Hopson, a prolific composer, educator, and church musician, who served as Minister of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville.

"Springs in the Desert" is presented in memory of James Sewell, long-time member, and former member of the pastoral staff of West End UMC

Bulletin Cover Art

The Prophet Zephaniah is a Russian icon created by an unknown iconographer in the 17th century. Typical of Orthodox iconography in its style, Zephaniah appears against a turquoise backdrop wearing a tunic of deep red with an ornate, golden collar and a rust-colored robe. With a golden halo around his head, the painting depicts a younger, light-skinned prophet with reddish-brown hair and beard. In his left arm, he holds a scroll, and his right hand is pointing upward toward the top of the scroll.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

♦ **Prayer Requests:** Babs White; Kathy Osten; our unhoused neighbors looking for a warm place to sleep; 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 16-22 will be Rev. Will McLeane. 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 an estimate card in the pew back, scan the QR code, or visit westendumc.org/estimatetnow to turn in your estimate.

***As of December 11, we have received
291 Estimates of Giving for 2025 for a total of \$1,924,784***

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.

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.

CHURCH CLOSED DECEMBER 25

The Church Offices and Preschool will be closed the afternoon of December 24 and all day on December 25 to allow our staff and clergy to celebrate the Christmas holiday with their families. If you have an emergency, please call 615.321.8500 and you will be directed to the minister on call.

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 3 and under.

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.



West End UMC's Annual Candlelighting Service

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

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 the last two Sundays of our annual Advent Ministry Market today in Reed Hall! Markets will be from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Come purchase items that help support a social mission here and around the world!



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.

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

PARKING FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

We expect parking to be limited for our special services this Advent season. To help us make room for everyone who would like to worship with us, we ask that you make plans to carpool or use a rideshare if possible. Early arrival is recommended.

NEW YEAR YOGA EVENT

Start the new year with peace, purpose, and mindful movement. This 2-hour workshop is perfect for all levels—no yoga or meditation 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.

ACCESSIBILITY IN WORSHIP

♦ **Service Dogs** - On Sundays, we may have congregants with service or guide dogs in worship with us. Please warmly welcome them both but refrain from petting the dog because it is a distraction to the animal while its working.

♦ **Braille Bulletins** - Also, we are now able to offer braille bulletins for those who may need it to fully participate in our worship service. Please email Andrew Callis at acallis@westendumc.org so we can make those arrangements and have it available.

♦ **Adult and Youth Sensory Bags** - We have sensory bags at each sanctuary entrance for adults and youth. If this is a need of yours, feel free to grab a bag and return it to the cart at the end of the service. Our intention is to make our service welcoming for all individuals with the hope that you feel best equipped for a fulfilling worship experience.

♦ **Assistive Listening Devices** - There are assisted listening devices available for anyone who may need them. They can be found in the Narthex or in Reed Hall.

2024 ADVENT EVENTS

Candlelighting Service // December 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Longest Night Service // Wednesday, December 18 at 6 p.m.

Child Led Christmas Eve Service // December 24 at 3 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services // December 24 at 5 and 10 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

3 p.m.

Child Led Service

5 p.m.

Carols, Communion
and Candles

10 p.m.

Choirs, Communion
and Candles

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
Dr. Tammy Lewis Wilborn..... Congregational Care Intern
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 Thomas Custodian



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