

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2015 at Ten-thirty in the Evening

Everyone is welcome at West End! 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, race, sexual orientation, economic or family status, ethnicity, or mental or physical ability. We believe God loves everyone unconditionally!

GATHERING

Voluntary

- I Saw Three Ships.....Dale Wood
- In Dulci Jubilo BWV 608..... J. S. Bach
- Noel Polonaise..... Alexander Guilmant
- Puer Natus Est.....Everett Titcomb
- Angels We Have Heard on High Timothy Albrecht
- Noel XII (Noel Suisse)..... Louis Daquin
- In the Bleak Midwinter..... Allen Orton Gibbs
- Improvisation on *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*.....Myron Roberts
- In dulci jubilo BWV 751..... J. S. Bach

Introit: Of the Father’s Love BegottenPlainsong

† Processional Hymn No. 234: O Come, All Ye Faithful.....Adeste Fideles

† Greeting Lisa Gwock

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 (*in unison*)

O God, you show us your love through the gift of your life among us. We hear the familiar story of Christmas, but we often fail to allow its mercy and grace to change our lives.

Forgive us, we pray, and fill our hearts with your love. This we ask in Christ’s name.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: *Hear the joyous news of Christmas: God has come to us in Christ Jesus, who gave himself for us while we were yet sinners. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!*

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

† Passing of 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.**
(You are invited to pass the peace of Christ to those around you.)

† An Act of Praise

Antiphon (Choir and Congregation)



Choir: *Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord. You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Anthem: Angels Carol.....John Rutter

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light.
He is come in love as a child of Mary;
In a simple stable we have seen his birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "peace on earth."

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations

When he comes to reign in purity and love.
Let the earth rejoice at the Savior's coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morning:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "Christ is born."

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Advent Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*)

Holy God, help us to give voice to the wonderful news: you, yourself are coming to dwell among us! Quicken our imaginations to find new and creative ways to proclaim Christ's coming. Amen.

† Lesson from the Gospel: Luke 2:1-14..... (pew Bible, page 832)
(The people will stand as the Gospel is brought into their midst.)

† Response to the Scripture:
Liturgist: *Great is the mystery of the incarnation.*
People: **Thanks be to God.**

† Hymn No. 218: It Came upon the Midnight ClearCarol
Communion Meditation.....Michael Williams/Nancy Hawthorne
Peace on Earth, Good Will to All

† Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed.....No. 880

The Offering

Anthem: The Word Made Flesh..... Philip Wilby

I sing the birth was born tonight, the author both of life and light;
The angels so did sound it, and like the ravished shepherds said,
Who saw the light and were afraid, yet searched and true they found it.
The Son of God, the eternal King, that did us all salvation bring,
And freed our soul from danger, he whom the whole world could not take,
The word, which heaven and earth did make, was now laid in a manger.
The Father's wisdom willed it so, The son's obedience knew no No;
Both wills were in one stature, And as that wisdom had decreed,
The Word was now made flesh indeed, and took on him our nature.
What comfort by him we do win, who made himself the price of sin,
To make us heirs of glory, to see this babe all innocence,
A martyr born in our defense, Can man forget the story.

† Presentation of the Offering and the Elements

† DoxologyNo. 95

† 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 (*Choir and Congregation*)



(*People Seated*)

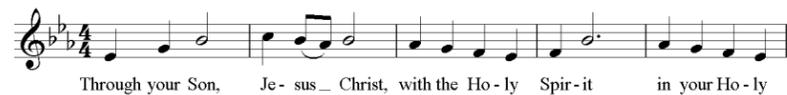
Prayer of Remembrance

People:



Prayer of Consecration

People:



The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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 O Holy Night, the congregation is invited to sing the following hymns: 217, 229, 230, and 239.

† 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.**

† Changing of the Chancel Paraments

We symbolize the transition from Advent expectation to Christmas celebration by changing the parament colors from purple to white.

† Lighting of the Christ Candle

SENDING FORTH

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

† Dismissal with Blessing

Celebrant: *Go forth in peace.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

People: **Amen.**

† Choral Response: Seven Fold Amen.....Peter Lutkin

Voluntary: Carillon de Westminster.....Louis Vierne

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

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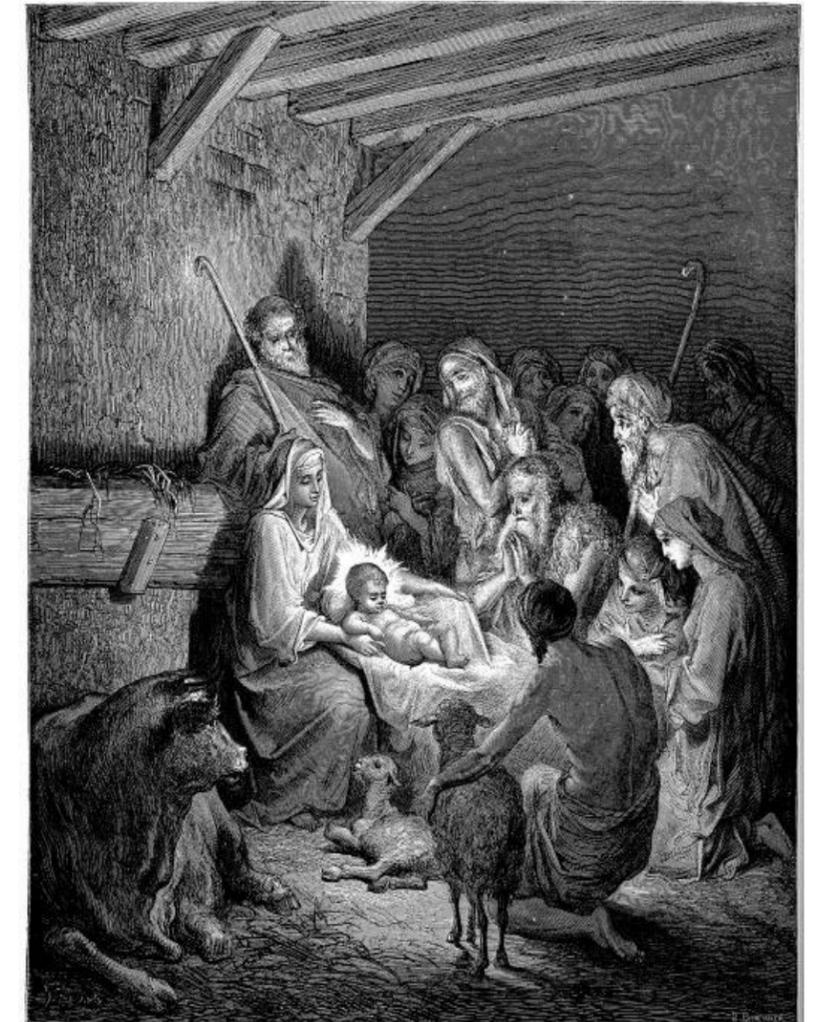
The poinsettias are given
in memory of Jeff Creel
by Mark O'Bryan, Monty Smith and India Webber.

The texts used in this evening's Communion service are used in many Christian traditions. They help us to see our relationship to those around us as an expression of our relationship to God. This is best expressed as we confess our sins, are assured of God's forgiveness, and then express that forgiveness with those around us in the "Passing of the Peace." The Peace is an act of reconciliation and blessing, based on New Testament Christian practice. When we are reminded of God's love and mercy, our response is to share that gift with others. United in this forgiveness, we come to the table as a forgiven and reconciled community in love and charity with each other.

Today's Communion Offering supports this year's special Advent offering for Edgehill Neighborhood Partnership which works for justice and equality with their neighbors in the Edgehill community.

Music Participants: Members of the Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs. Ben Troxler, baritone. Minister of Music Matthew Phelps is directing and assisting at the organ. Associate Andrew Risinger is organist-accompanist. Caitlin Dowling is assisting at the organ.

O Holy Night!



This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. ~Luke 2:12

Christmas Eve Service



2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org