

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
March 26, 2017 at Eleven o'clock
Fourth Sunday of Lent

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: Jesus My Joy, BWV 610..... J. S. Bach

Dear Jesus We are Here, BWV 730..... J. S. Bach

Welcome.....Michael Williams

Introit: O Lamb of God Most Holy.....Nikolaus Decius

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross did suffer, and patient still and lowly yourself to scorn did offer; our sins by You were taken, our hope had us forsaken: Have mercy on us, Jesus!

† Processional Hymn No. 116: The God of Abraham Praise.....Leoni

† Greeting.....Stacy Gonzalez

Liturgist: *Give thanks to God and sing praises to God's holy name.*

People: **We rejoice in you, O God, for you have restored us to life.**

Liturgist: *We acknowledge that we are utterly dependent on the Lord.*

People: **May God's name be ever on our lips.**

Leader: *In you, God, we are offered fullness of life.*

People: **Let our hearts be always overflowing with thankfulness for your love.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Forgiving God,

**in a world filled with so much pain,
it is easy to become disconnected from you
and from one another.**

We would rather repay evil for evil than forgive our enemies.

We find it easier to stay divided than to come together.

We lose sight of our own humanity

in a futile effort always to be right or to be first.

Forgive us loving God,

and free us to love your entire creation radically.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

† 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.

(Please be seated.)

Voluntary: Hear My Words Stephen Paulus

Hear my words O gracious Lord, to my thoughts attentive be.

Hear my cry my King, my God. I will make my prayer to Thee.

With the morning light O Lord, Thou shalt hear my voice arise.

And expectant I will bring prayer as morning sacrifice.

Thou art Holy, O my God. Thou delightest not in sin.

Evil shall not dwell with Thee, nor the proud Thy favor win.

(Psalm 5, adapted by the composer)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Lenten Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, Word made flesh, let us hear this word open to your voice. Silence our agendas, confound our expectations, and clear the cobwebs from our ears. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.

A lesson from the Epistle: I Thessalonians 5: 12-25.....(pew Bible, page 861)

Response to the Lesson

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

† Hymn No. 2197 TFWS: Lord of All Hopefulness.....Slane

The children are invited to come forward to join Michael at the chancel during the last stanza of the hymn.

Sermon: Beloved, Pray for Us.....Michael Williams

† A Litany of Re-Consecration and Dedication.....Michael Williams

(See bulletin insert.)

† 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.)

Joys & Concerns of the Church.....Erin Racine

Salutation

Liturgist: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Liturgist: *Let us pray.*

Prayers of the 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.

Offertory: Blessed is the Man.....Sven Lekberg

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor

standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is on the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he

meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the

rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also

shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

(from Psalm 1)

† Doxology.....No. 95

Reception of New Members

Liturgist: *Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
these persons are now entrusted to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.*

People: **We give thanks for all that God has already given you, 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.**

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 358: Dear Lord and Father of MankindRest

† Benediction

† Benediction Response (all sing)..... Tallis Canon

**Throughout these Lenten days and nights
We turn to walk the inward way,
Where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
We live in hope till Easter day.**

Voluntary: Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist, BWV 671J. 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 stand.*

Head Usher: Barbara Cragg

The altar flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Martha and P.G. Banker, Jr. and their son, Van Gordon Banker, by their family.

Parker James Harris,
son of Nathan Harris and Christine Harris,
was presented for baptism in the 8:45am service.

Music Participants: The Chancel Choir. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps, is directing and assisting at the organ. Associate, Andrew Risinger is organist/accompanist. Chapel Choir II and Youth Vocal Ensemble. Caitlin Dowling is conducting.

Hymnic Notes: The processional includes portions of a paraphrase of the thirteen articles of the Jewish creed called the *Yigdal* or doxology. The tune, LEONI, is named after Meyer Lyon (1751-1797) known as Leoni, the chief musician of London's Great Synagogue. The melody is common to Jewish, Spanish-Basque, and Russian folk traditions, and was used by Bedrich Smetana in his orchestral masterpiece *Vltava (The Moldau)*, 1874.

The recessional is a reminder that God is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Nehemiah 9:17b). *(Hymnic Notes by Carlton Young)*

March 26, 2017
Preaching: Michael Williams
"Beloved, Pray for Us"

I Thessalonians 5: 12-25

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us.

West End United Methodist Church

PASTORAL STAFF

Members of West End United Methodist Church..... Ministers
 Michael Williams Senior Pastor
 Erin Racine Pastor of Hospitality and Congregational Care
 Chris Allen..... Pastor of Spiritual Formation
 Becky Peeler Pastor of Children and Family Ministries
 Lisa Gwock Pastor of Missions & Outreach
 Nancy Parker Pastor of Young Adults
 Ewart Watts Pastor at Richland Place

PROGRAM STAFF

Matthew Phelps Minister of Music
 Andrew Risinger Associate Minister of Music
 Caitlin Dowling Music Intern
 Emily Robbins Minister of Youth
 Shelley Kuhlmeier Communications Director
 Stacy Gonzalez Congregational Care Intern
 Christe' Blackshear Intern
 Dane Van Eys Youth Intern
 Don Marler Minister of Music Emeritus

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 Sandra Durbin Church Financial Officer
 Melanie Paulson Human Resources Director
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 Marty Gilbert Multi-media Manager
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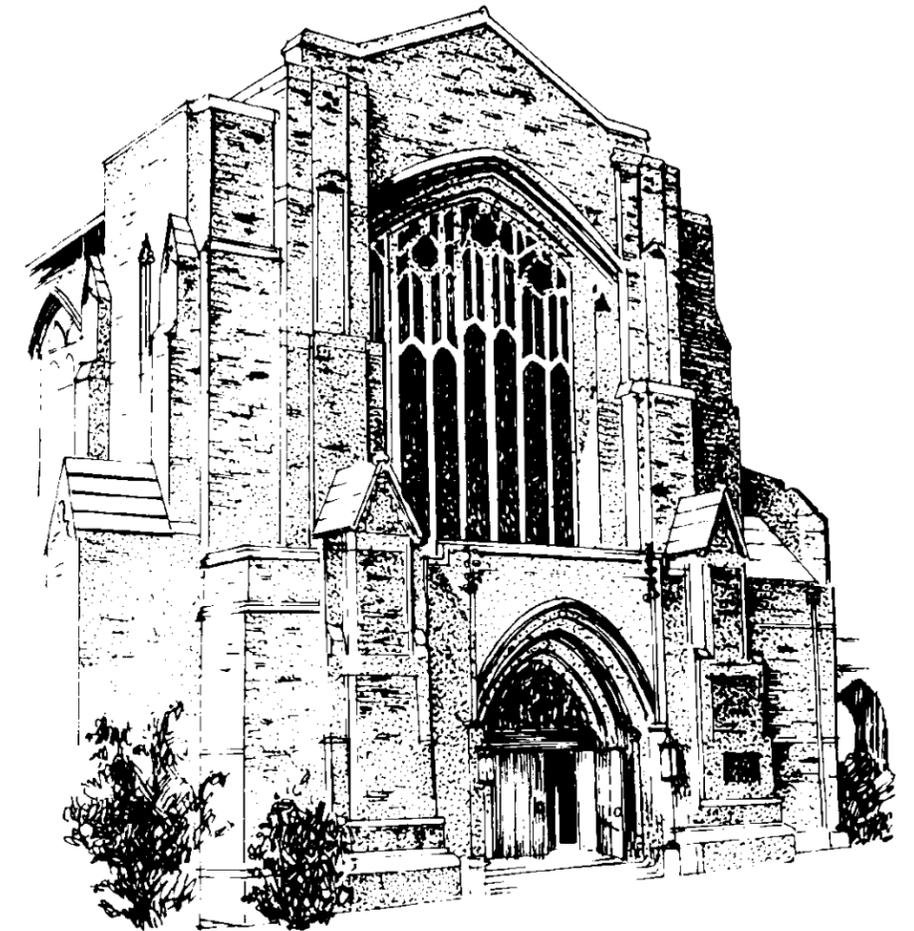
WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES

Lynn McClary Executive Director
 Sandy Gilbert Program Director

*To reach a member of the staff by email,
 use their first initial with their last name at westendumc.org except for
 Bob Hilton, Don Marler, and Ewart Watts.*

WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*The Loving Light of Christ
 Connecting, Transforming*

