

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
August 27, 2017 at Eight Forty-five  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

*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: Chorale Prelude on “Herr Jesu Christ” BWV 709.....J. S. Bach

Welcome.....Carol Cavin-Dillon  
*Please take a moment to record your attendance in the registration pad found near the center aisle, pass it to your neighbor, and then pass the pad back to the center. First-time guests are encouraged to list your address and telephone number or e-mail address so we may share additional information about our church with you.*

Introit: Come, and Let Us Sweetly Join.....Orlando Gibbons

† Processional Hymn No. 96.....Amsterdam  
Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

† Greeting.....Nancy Parker  
Liturgist: *When Pharaoh enslaved the people of Israel,*  
People: **God came down and set them free.**  
Liturgist: *When religious leaders rejected the poor, the blind, and the lame,*  
People: **Christ came down and made them whole.**  
Liturgist: *When persecution threatened to silence the believers,*  
People: **the Spirit came down and made them bold.**  
Liturgist: *May God, the three in One, come among us this day,*  
People: **to set us free, to make us whole, and to make us bold.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**Holy God,**  
**we confess that we find it all too easy to give up on life.**  
**When we are weighed down by pain and loss,**  
**we forget your power to set us free.**  
**When we witness the oppression and struggle of others,**  
**we grow indifferent and numb.**  
**When we encounter the darkness in the world around us,**  
**we close our eyes to your light.**  
**Forgive us, O God.**  
**Help us to trust in your goodness and faithfulness.**  
**Remind us that you are a God who makes a way out of no way.**  
**Renew our hope, rekindle our love, and spur us into action.**

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

The Sacrament of Baptism

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Liturgist: *Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?*

People: **With God’s help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Commendation and Welcome

† Liturgist: *Members of the household of God, I commend Kirby Grace to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.*

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

† Musical Response .....No. 611, st. 1  
**Child of blessing, child of promise,**  
**baptized with the Spirit’s sign:**  
**with this water God has sealed you**  
**unto love and grace divine.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,**  
**that as the Scriptures are read and the Word proclaimed,**  
**we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Lesson from the Old Testament: Exodus 1:8-2:10.....(pew Bible, pages 43)

Response to the Lesson

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

† Gloria Patri.....No. 71

*The children are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri to join Carol at the chancel.*

**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.)*

Sermon: God Works in Subversive Ways.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Affirmation of Faith.....No. 883

† 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.....Emily C. Robbins

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: A Prayer for Peace..... John Michael Trotta

O Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon, Lord. Where there is doubt, true faith in you. Where there’s despair, let me sow hope. Where there is darkness, only light. Where there is sadness, ever joy. O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love with all my soul. It is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. *Anonymous French, 1912 (attr. St. Francis of Assisi)*

† 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. 384.....Beecher  
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: The Peace of God.....John Yarrington

Voluntary: Allegro con brio from *Sonata IV* .....Felix Mendelssohn  
*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 Ushers: John Nance and Byron Burrus

The altar flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Margaret Helen Lowe on the second anniversary of her death by her family, Sandy, Whitson, John and Mark Lowe.

Kirby Grace Lemmons, daughter of John Sullivan-West Lemmons and Katherine Davis Lemmons, is presented for baptism today.

Music Participants: The Sanctuary Choir. Associate Minister of Music, Andrew Risinger-director. Allison Williams is assisting at the organ.

Hymnic Notes:

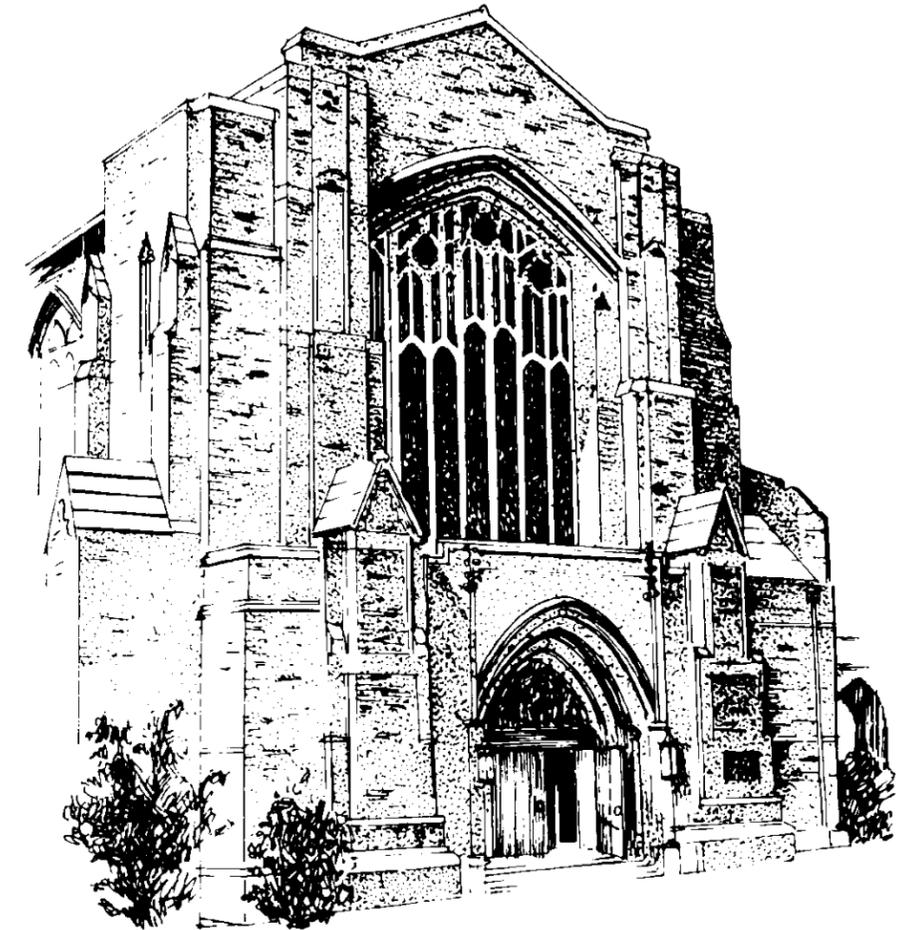
The procession is Charles Wesley’s lyrical and free paraphrase of Psalm 150. In stanza two the poet characterizes music as a heavenly art and reminds us that our musical-offerings to God should be the "music of the heart."

The recessional hymn is a petition that God’s loving Spirit and unbounded love may dwell in each of us and be expressed in our lives.  
*(Hymnic notes by Carlton Young)*

August 27, 2017  
Preaching: Carol Cavin-Dillon  
“God Works in Subversive Ways”  
Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.” Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

WEST END  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*The Loving Light of Christ  
Connecting, Transforming*



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