

GATHERING

Voluntary

Prelude on "The Holly and the Ivy".....Herbert Sumsion
Offertoire sur Deux Noels.....Alexandre Guilmant
In dulci jubilo.....Settings by J. S. Bach & Dietrich Buxtehude
Prelude on Gevaert.....arr. Raymond Haan
Noel Etranger.....Louis Daquin
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.....arr. Keith Chapman
Improvisation on "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"Myron Roberts
In dulci jubilo, BWV 751.....J. S. Bach

Introit: Of the Father's Love Begotten.....Plainsong

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

† Greeting.....Brandon Baxter

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.**

† 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: On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol).....arr. Philip Ledger

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should we on earth be sad since our redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty? When sin
departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place; heaven and
earth with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King. All out of darkness
we have light, which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God and
peace be giv'n, now and forevermore. Amen."

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*)

**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 Gospel: Luke 2:1-20.....(pew Bible, page 832)

† 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 Clear.....Carol

Communion Meditation: Just the Thing.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

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

The Offering.....Erin Racine

Offertory: Before the Marvel of This Night.....Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow,
then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
sing gift of peace! Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the
Lord has made. Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come
arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they
miss: sing endless bliss! The love that we have known, our joy and endless
light, now to the loveless world be shown, break upon its night. Into one
song compress the love that rules above: sing God is love! (Jaroslav Vajda)

† Presentation of the Offering and the Elements

† 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 (*Choir and Congregation*)



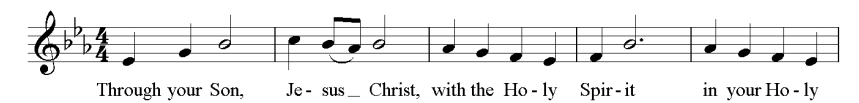
Prayer of Remembrance

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, 230, 216, 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 blue 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.....William Thomas Best
Christmas Postlude on "Let the Praise Be Loud and High"

† *The congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

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The altar flowers are given to glory of God and in memory of
Katherine Dinkins Graham by Mark A. O'Bryan and
William Montgomery Smith.



*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!*

Sunday Activities

Service Times.....	8:45 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School.....	9:45 a.m.
Youth Choir Rehearsal.....	12:15 - 1 p.m.
Adult Handbells.....	1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Youth Handbell Rehearsals.....	4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Youth Small Groups.....	5 - 7 p.m.

Weekly Activities

Meal.....	Wednesdays, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.
Class Offerings.....	Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.
Children's Choir.....	Wednesdays, 6 - 7 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal.....	Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal.....	Thursdays, 7:15pm - 9:15 p.m.

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship services! However if needed childcare is available during worship for children 5 and under on the 1st floor in the following rooms: infants 105, toddlers 104, twos and threes 110, and fours and fives 112. If you prefer to step out of the service, worship is live-streamed in Bishop's Parlor.

An accessible, all-gender restroom is available in Bishop's Parlor. This single-stall restroom includes a diaper changing station and assistance railing.

Building Tours are offered on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 AM, or immediately following the early service. Meet at the Welcome Center in Reed Hall, through the side doors of the Sanctuary.

For a complete listing and additional information on Sunday and Weekly Activities, please visit www.westendumc.org or see the bulletin insert.

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The general offering this evening benefits the General Fund of the church. The Communion Offering will go to support the missions ministry of West End United Methodist Church. It will be split between the adult mission trip to Guatemala, youth missions, and local children's mission opportunities. We invite you to give generously!

The service music printed in the order of worship is by Sally Ahner ©1983. Used with permission.

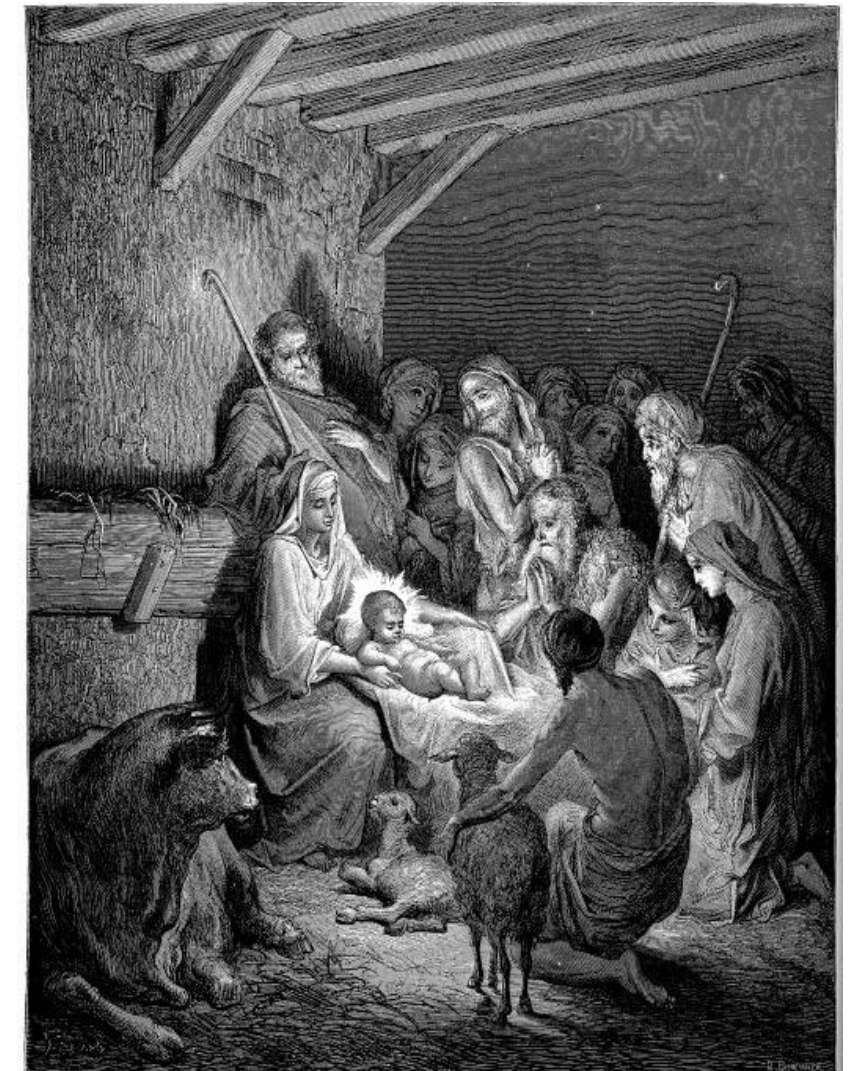
Cover art: "The Nativity" by Gustave Doré.

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.

Music Participants: Members of the Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps, director and organist. Associate Minister of Music, Andrew Risinger, organist and accompanist. Ben Troxler, bass.

WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ~Luke 2:11

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2019

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org