

GATHERING

Voluntary: Interlude on “Coventry Carol”William Lloyd Webber

Welcome.....Brandon Baxter

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: Of the Father’s Love Begotten.....Divinum Mysterium

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he
Of the things that are that have been and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

† Processional Hymn No. 240.....Mendelssohn
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

† Call to Worship.....Rachel Ternes

Liturgist: *We have heard God’s voice through God’s son, Jesus Christ.*

People: **He sustains the universe by the power of his command.**

Liturgist: *He gave himself to free us from the grip of sin and death.*

People: **He reigns in the heavens and is seated
at the right hand of God.**

Liturgist: *This is our God!*

People: **Let us worship together!**

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Holy Incarnate God,

**we confess that we have failed to comprehend your glory
and the depth of our sin.**

**We have not loved you,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not loved ourselves.**

**Our feet have not brought good news to the poor,
nor have our voices defended the Earth,
its creatures and plants.**

Forgive us, Merciful Savior.

**Awaken us to your holy honesty
so that we may more clearly understand your will
and walk with sure steps into the way
of wholeness and peace. Amen.**

† 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 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.**

† 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: Coventry Carol.....Traditional carol, arr. Phelps

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by by, lully lullay.

O sisters too how may we do for to preserve this day
this poor youngling, for whom we do sing, by by, lully lullay?
Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.
That woe is me, poor child for thee! And ever morn and day,
for thy parting neither say nor sing by by, lully lullay!

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination.....Gretchen Horner

**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.**

A lesson from the New Testament: Hebrews 1:1-12...(pew Bible, page 970-971)

Response to the Lesson

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

† Hymn No. 224: Good Christian Friends, RejoiceIn Dulce Jubilo

*The children are invited to join Brandon at the chancel during the last stanza
of the hymn for the Children’s Moment.*

Sermon: For Ever and Ever.....Brandon Baxter

† Affirmation of Faith.....No. 881

Joys & Concerns of the Church.....Stacey Harwell-Dye

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: Unto Us is Born a Son.....Traditional carol, arr. Willcocks

Unto us is born a Son, king of quires supernal: see on earth his life begun, of
lords the Lord eternal. Christ, from heav’n descending low, comes on earth a
stranger; ox and ass their owner know, becradled in the manger. This did
Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder, so he gave the word to slay, and
slew the little childer. Of his love and mercy mild this the Christmas story;
and O the Mary’s gentle child might lead us up to glory. O and A, and A and
O, cum cantibus in choro, let our merry organ go, benedicamus Domino.

(tr. G. R. Woodward)

† Doxology.....No. 95

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 251.....Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

† Benediction

† Benediction Response.....Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain, all sing)
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Voluntary: Fanfare on “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.....Gordon Young

*The postlude is the final Alleluia of our worship.
All are invited to remain for a time of joyful prayer.*

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

*Livestream and video recording happen during our church services
and worship events.*

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The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of 25 years
of faith and fellowship by the Cornerstone Sunday School Class.



*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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Head Usher: Barbara Cragg
 Cover art: Charles Hooper
 Liturgy: Erin Racine

The Call to Worship is adapted from a resource by Christine Longhurst on the *re: Worship* blog. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from a resource in the *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*.

Music Participants: The Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps, organist-director.

Today’s Music: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” by Charles Wesley, was written within a year of Wesley’s conversion. Thus, as Albert Bailey writes, “the inspiration of his newly-made contact with God was still fresh” (*The Gospel in Hymns*, 100). Rather than simply telling the nativity story, Wesley pours theological truths into this text. The first verse tells the story of the angels proclaiming Christ’s birth, and the second and third verses go on to make it very clear why the angels sang. Simply by describing Christ, Wesley tells us the entire Gospel story. We are told of Christ’s nature, his birth and incarnation, his ministry, and his salvific purpose. The *Psalter Hymnal Handbook* describes the hymn like this: “A curious mixture of exclamation, exhortation, and theological reflection. The focus shifts rapidly from angels, to us, to nations. The text’s strength may not lie so much in any orderly sequence of thought but in its use of Scripture to teach its theology. That teaching surely produces in us a childlike response of faith; we too can sing ‘Glory to the newborn King!’”

West End United Methodist Church

PASTORAL STAFF

Members of West End United Methodist Church..... Ministers
 Carol Cavin-Dillon.....Senior Pastor
 Erin RacinePastor of Hospitality & Congregational Care
 Brandon Baxter.....Pastor & Coordinator of Spiritual Formation
 Maggie Jarrell Pastor of Children & Family Ministries
 Stacey Harwell-Dye Pastor of Missions & Outreach
 Nancy Parker.....Pastor of Young Adults & Vandy Wesley

PROGRAM STAFF

Matthew Phelps.....Minister of Music
 Andrew Risinger..... Associate Minister of Music
 Emily C. Robbins.....Minister of Youth
 Shelley Kuhlmeier.....Communications Director
 Don Marler.....Minister of Music Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sandra Durbin.....Church Financial Officer
 Melanie Paulson.....Director, HR
 Jim Raver.....Property Operations Manager
 Cindy Siemer Senior Administrative Assistant & Membership
 Julie Catterton.....Assistant to Senior Pastor
 Karina Gurgenzidze.....Childcare Coordinator
 Charity Van De Griek..... Administrative Assistant
 Laural Hemenway.....Receptionist and Administrative Assistant
 Chase Bencin.....Media Coordinator
 Bob Hilton.....Building Engineer
 Richard Thomas.....Custodian

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES

Candyee Goode.....Executive Director
 Ken Nelson.....Receptionist and Preschool Assistant

INTERNS

Katie Minnis.....Young Adult & Spiritual Formation
 Scott Brons.....Music
 Rachel Ternes.....Youth
 Heather Helton.....Congregational Care

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

WEST END
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
 December 29, 2019 at Eleven o’clock
 First Sunday after Christmas

2200 West End Avenue
 Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org