



# WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 24, 2023 AT TEN THIRTY PM  
CHRISTMAS EVE

# GATHERING

Voluntary: Variations on *Adeste Fidelis* .....Raynor Taylor  
Pastorale on *Gesu Bambino* .....Pietro Yon  
Rhapsody on Christmas Themes..... Eugene Gigout  
Prelude on *Gevaert* ..... Raymond Haan  
Variations on the Polish Carol *Infant Holy* .....Alexandre Guilmant  
In the Bleak Midwinter .....Allen Orton Gibbs  
In dulci júbilo .....Marcel Dupré  
In dulci júbilo, BWV 608 & 751..... J. S. Bach

Welcome.....Carol Cavin-Dillon  
*Please take a moment to let us know you are here today by either filling out the attendance form in the pew or by visiting [westendumc.org/attendance](http://westendumc.org/attendance). If you are a first-time guest with us today, please share a way to connect so that we can share more information about West End UMC with you!*

Introit: Torches, Torches..... John Joubert

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

† Call to Worship .....Emily Robbins

*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 and joy.  
This we ask in Christ’s name.**

† 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 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



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo-ple on earth.

*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: A Child of the Snows.....Christina Whitten Thomas

There is heard a hymn when the panes are dim,  
and never before or again,  
when the nights are strong with a darkness long,  
and the dark is alive with rain.  
Never we know but in sleet and in snow,  
the place where the great fires are,  
that the midst of the earth is a raging mirth  
and the heart of the earth a star.

And at night we win to the ancient inn  
where the child in the frost is furled,  
we follow the feet where all souls meet  
at the inn at the end of the world.  
The gods lie dead where the leaves lie red,  
for the flame of the sun is flown,  
the gods lie cold where the leaves lie gold,  
and a child comes forth alone.  
(G. K. Chesterton)

### PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

† Prayer for Illumination

**Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we,  
like the shepherds, might hear with joy the good news of Christ’s birth  
for us and for all the world; through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.  
Amen.**

† A Lesson from the Gospel.....Luke 2:1-20

† Response to the Lesson

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

† Hymn No. 218: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear ..... Carol

Christmas Meditation: Joy to the World.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Nicene Creed, No. 880..... Will McLeane

**We believe in one God,  
The Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**  
**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**  
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**  
**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**  
**We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.**  
**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**  
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Salutation

*Liturgist: The Lord be with you.*  
**People: And also with you.**  
*Liturgist: Let us pray.*

Prayers of the People

Offertory: 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 the 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 morn:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "Christ is Born."

† 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

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are  
ful of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Prayer of Remembrance

**People:**

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain.

Prayer of Consecration

**People:**

Through your Son, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it in your Ho-ly  
Church, all glo-ry and hon-or is yours, Fa-ther. A-men.



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 join the choir in singing the following hymns during communion: 217, 230, and 216.*

† 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.**

## SENDING FORTH

The Lighting of the Candles

*The pastor will light a candle from the Advent wreath and then light the candles of the candlelighters. They will light the candles of those nearest the center aisle.  
Tip the unlit candle when lighting your candle. After all candles are lighted, the congregation and choirs will sing:*

Hymn No. 239: Silent Night, Holy Night..... Stille Nacht

**Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright,  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

Christmas Proclamation and Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room;  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the word, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Voluntary: Toccata on *Antioch* ..... Craig Phillips

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

### **ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE**

*The Altar flowers are given this Christmas to the glory of God and in loving memory of their mothers, Emma Ashton O'Bryan and Carolyn Montgomery Smith, by Mark A. O'Bryan and Monty Smith.*

### **Music Participants**

Members of the Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs  
Hollie Dueker, mezzo soprano ♦ Ben Troxler, bass  
Andrew Risinger: Organist  
Matthew Phelps: Director / Assisting at Organ

### **Bulletin Cover Art**

“Nativity,” by contemporary artist James He Qi. He received a 20th Century Award for Achievement in recognition of his work in the field of Religious Art Theory and Christian Art Creation. He Qi visited West End in September, 2022, and gave a talk about his history as an artist. We have often used his works as bulletin cover art pieces.

### **A WARM WELCOME TO WEST END**

Welcome to West End United Methodist Church! 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 identity, race, sexual orientation, economic or family status, ethnicity, or mental or physical ability.

We believe God loves everyone unconditionally!

Scan this QR Code or visit [westendumc.org/links](https://westendumc.org/links) to register your attendance with us, find out more about our Sunday Morning Classes, sign up for our weekly email, and learn more about the different ways to give at West End.



### **TAIZÉ LABYRINTH SERVICE**

Experience the beauty and peace of Taizé worship around the labyrinth in the 4th Story Theater. Our labyrinth service that usually happens on New Year's Eve will happen on Sunday, January 7 at 5 p.m. Opportunity is offered for individual prayers and anointing for healing. The Taizé team will welcome you with beautiful music and warm smiles. Let go of the burdens of 2023 and enter 2024 with renewed hope and peace.

### **YOU'RE (STILL) INVITED**

One of the phrases we often hear from Jesus in the Gospels is his invitation to “follow me.” Each one of us is called to follow Jesus and to live out his love in the world. During the season after Epiphany, we will consider what it means to be “called” as baptized Christians with unique spiritual gifts. During this season we will reaffirm our baptismal vows, hear the stories of the call of the first disciples, explore our spiritual gifts, and recommit ourselves to following Jesus in our everyday lives. Whether you have been a follower of Jesus for fifty years or fifty days, you are (still) invited to hear the call and respond with joy!



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