



# WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AT TEN O'CLOCK  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

## GATHERING

Voluntary: The First Noel.....Gordan Young  
Coventry Carol.....William Lloyd Webber  
What Child is This .....Vaughan Williams, arr. Roper

Welcome ..... Stacey Harwell-Dye  
*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. 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: See Amid the Winter's Snow ..... John Goss

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

† Call to Worship .....Maggie Jarrell  
*Liturgist: We gather this day to rejoice in God's steadfast love;*  
**People: To rehearse God's goodness with fullness of heart.**  
*Liturgist: We gather this day in expectation and hope;*  
**People: Trusting the Spirit will gift us with vision for God's good future.**  
*Liturgist: We gather this day in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel;*  
**People: Joining all of Heaven and Earth in celebrating the gift of our Lord!**

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (in unison)  
**Gracious God,**  
**as we pause to remember this past year, we are reminded of the many ways we have failed to love you, to love our neighbors, and to love ourselves.**  
**Forgive us for the ways we have not remembered your grace and so trusted that we could call upon your name for help and guidance when we have faced temptation or experienced despair.**  
**By the power of your Holy Spirit, liberate us from the snares of sin that in this new year we might joyfully walk in the beautiful way of Jesus.**

† 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.**

† 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: Unto Us a Son Is Born ..... David 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)

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination .....Beth Howard  
**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 Old Testament..... Joshua 4:1-8, 19-22

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

† Hymn No. 400: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ..... Nettleton  
Children's Moment

Sermon: Looking Back, Moving Forward ..... Stacey Harwell-Dye

† Affirmation of Faith, No. 883 .....Will McLeane  
**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made  
Flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to  
love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns of the Church

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: I Saw a Maiden ..... Basque Noel, arr. Pettman  
I saw a maiden sitten and sing:  
she lulled a child, a sweete Lording.  
Lullay, lullay, my dear son, my sweeting.  
Lullay, lullay, my dear heart, my own dear darling.  
This very Lord he made alle thing:  
of lords the Lord, of Kinges the King.  
Lullay, lullay, my dear son, my sweeting.  
Lullay, lullay, my dear heart, my own dear darling.  
Pray we to that child and to his mother dear,  
his blessing to them that maken now cheer.  
Lullay, lullay, my dear son, my sweeting.  
Lullay, lullay, my dear heart, my own dear darling.

† 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!**

**SENDING FORTH**

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

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: Angels We Have Heard on High .....Angels Carol  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Voluntary: Hark the Herald Angels Sing .....Gordon Young

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

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

**ABOUT TODAY’S SERVICE**

*The altar flowers are presented in memory of DeNorma “Dede” Smith Gunter, mother to West End member Peaches Gunter Blank and grandmother to Raleigh Anne Blank Gray. Dede was called to join the choir of angels on December 19, 2023. While on earth she was an active member of First United Methodist Church - Gastonia, North Carolina.*

*Today’s liturgy was written by Rev. Will McLeane*

**Music Participants**  
Members of the Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs  
Matthew Phelps: Director / Organist

**Today’s Music**  
“Go Tell it on the Mountain” is attributed to John Wesley Work Jr., but is adapted from an African-American spiritual that dates back to at least 1865. Work was born in Nashville, TN and studied at Fisk University, later teaching there and leading the famed Fisk Jubilee Singers.

**Bulletin Cover Art**  
“An Ebenezer,” created and photographed along a lakeshore by an unknown photographer.

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**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

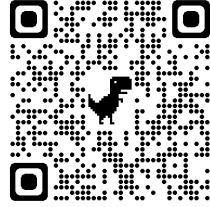
<b>Sunday, December 31</b>		
10:00 a	Children’s Church	Scales Chapel
10:00 a	Worship Service	Sanctuary
<b>Wednesday, January 3</b>		
12:00 p	Board Development Task Force	306
5:30 p	Room in the Inn	Lower Level
6:00p	Boys Thunderchicken Practice	Gymnasium
<b>Saturday, January 6</b>		
8:00 a	Mercy and Justice Grant Review	McWhirter Hall
8:00 a	Youth Basketball League Play	Gymnasium

## 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.



## PRAYER REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

### ♦ Prayer Requests:

If you have an emergency and need to contact one of the Pastors after hours, please call 615.321.8500, Ext. 8853. The Pastor on Call for January 1-7 will be Rev. Stacey Harwell-Dye.

To submit a prayer request, visit [westendumc.org/prayerrequest](https://westendumc.org/prayerrequest).

## 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.

## NEW YOUNG ADULT STUDY BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

The Young Adult group will begin studying *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 317. The study will meet every Tuesday evening through February 6, and will culminate with attending an event with the author here in Nashville on February 10. Books are available at all major retailers. For more information, contact Rev. Aimee Baxter at [abaxter@westendumc.org](mailto:abaxter@westendumc.org).



# 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!

### January 7 ♦ Call of The Magi ♦ Matthew 2:1-12 “Chalking In The Year”

Receive bags of chalk in worship to mark your home and post a blessing over your home or doorway for the new year.

♦ Taize Labyrinth/Prayer Path at 5 p.m.

### January 10 ♦ First Wednesday Your Calling

Join us for our First Wednesday together as we talk about how to discern our calling given to us by God over our lifetimes.

### January 14 ♦ Baptism of the Lord

Join us in worship as we remember our baptism and claim our worth in God

### January 15 ♦ MLK Day Celebration

Join others from West End as we participate in MLK Day events and claim the belovedness of God for all people.

### January 21 ♦ Call of Philip and Nathanael ♦ John 1:43-51

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday  
Invite a friend to “come and see” what West End UMC is all about!

### January 28 ♦ A Call To Healing ♦ Mark 1:21-28

### February 4 ♦ Call To Prayer ♦ Mark 1:29-39

### February 7 ♦ First Wednesday Your Gifts

### February 11 ♦ Transfiguration ♦ Mark 9:2-9



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