

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
December 18, 2016 at Eleven o'clock
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.....Johannes Brahms
Chorale Prelude on "Lo, How a Rose is Blooming"

Welcome.....Michael Williams
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 BegottenPlainchant
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. 216.....Es Ist Ein Ros
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

† GreetingBecky Peeler
Liturgist: *Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion!*
People: **For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.**
Liturgist: *Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day,*
People: **And they shall be my people;
and I will dwell in your midst.**

(Please be seated.)

Lighting the Advent Candle Preschool Families:
Stephen, Adrienne, Francesca, and Emilia Fazio

Lesson from the Prophets: Isaiah 7:10-16.....(pew Bible, page 554)

Congregational Response.....Besançon
Hymn No. 202: People, Look East
**People look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way!**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God, you are in our midst.

**It is difficult for us to put our whole trust in you
since we cannot see your face or hear your voice
or feel your embrace.**

We confess we would rather trust ourselves.

**Forgive us when we place our trust in those things
that would make us popular or prosperous.**

**We confess that instead of changing our ways,
we seek answers for faithful lives
from the caretakers of our culture
instead of from the messenger you are sending us.**

**Be with us, O Lord, as you send this child
to make your presence known to us.**

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

† 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.**

(Please be seated.)

Anthem: Verbum Caro Factum EstDaniel Elder
Verbum caro factum est And the Word was made flesh
Et habitavit in nobis and dwelt among us,
et vidimus gloriam ejus and we beheld his glory,
gloriam quasi unigeniti a Patre the glory as of the only begotten Father,
plenum gratiae et veritatis full of grace and truth.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Advent Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*)

**Holy God, help us to give voice to the wonderful news:
you, yourself are coming to dwell among us!
Quicken our imaginations to find new and creative ways
to proclaim Christ's coming. Amen.**

Lesson from the Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25 (pew Bible, page 783)

Response to the Lesson

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

† Hymn No. 215: To a Maid Engaged to Joseph.....Annunciation
The children are invited to come forward to join Michael at the chancel during the last stanza of the hymn.

Sermon: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming.....Michael Williams

† Affirmation of Faith from I Timothy 2:5-6; 1:15; 3:16.....No. 889

Joys & Concerns of the Church Dane Van Eys

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: Magnificat in B-flatJohn Stainer

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath helped his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever. 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. (Luke 1:46b-55)

† DoxologyNo. 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. 220.....Regent Square
Angels from the Realms of Glory

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: Rejoice, Rejoice!.....Veni Emmanuel

Voluntary: Paeon on "Divinum Mysterium".....John Cook
*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 Usher: Barbara Cragg

The altar flowers are given today
to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Reverend and Mrs. Willard Blue,
Eddie and Lucy VanVoorhees and Kathleen Shacter
by Linda Lundin, Ed VanVoorhees and children.

A rose on the altar is in celebration
of the birth of Ann Towery Douglass
who was born December 1, 2016
to Scott and Lauren Douglass.

A rose on the altar is in celebration
of the birth of Virginia Nell Gustafson
who was born December 9, 2016
to Cole and Jenny Redding Gustafson
and big brother, Oliver Gustafson.

Music Participants: The Chancel Choir. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps,
is director. Associate Andrew Risinger is organist/accompanist. Caitlin
Dowling is assisting at the organ. Emma Jackson, soprano. Ethan Bennett,
bass.

Hymnic Notes:

The processional is a translation of portions of 15th-century German Advent
folk hymn, that in part reflects medieval iconography where the tree of Jesse
(Isaiah 11:1), is often depicted as a rose plant that will bear a little flower.

Our second hymn is an unrhymed paraphrase of Gabriel's announcement
(often called 'The Annunciation') to Mary, and her acceptance of the news she
has been chosen to bear Jesus, God's child.

The recessional consists of invitations to angels that sang at the creation and to
the abiding shepherds, the regal Magi, and humankind that has long-expected
the coming of the Messiah, to worship Christ the new-born King.

(Hymnic Notes by Carlton Young)

December 18, 2016
Preaching: Michael Williams
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Rejoice
Rejoice



*The Loving Light of Christ
Connecting, Transforming*



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