

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
December 18, 2016 at Eight Forty-five  
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 Begotten .....Divinum Mysterium

† Processional Hymn No. 216:.....Es Ist Ein Ros  
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

† Greeting .....Becky 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:  
Emily Hollett and Carey Whitworth

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

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.**

† Gloria Patri.....No. 71  
*The children are invited to come forward during the singing  
of the Gloria Patri to join Michael at the chancel.*

**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.**

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: My Lord Has Come ..... Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels; no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me. Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels; no place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

† Doxology .....No. 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: John Nance

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 Sanctuary Choir. Associate Minister of Music,  
Andrew Risinger is director. Caitlin Dowling is assisting at the organ.

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.

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.

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*The Loving Light of Christ  
Connecting, Transforming*



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