

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2016 at Ten-thirty in the Evening

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

- In Dulci Jubilo BWV 606.....J.S. Bach
- In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729.....J. S. Bach
- Three Versets on 'Away in a Manger'Mark Blatchly
- Offertoire sur Deux Noels.....Alexandre Guilmant
- Noel Suisse XII.....Louis Daquin
- Improvisation on "The First Nowell"C.P.P. Burton
- I Saw Three ShipsDale Wood
- The Holy Boy.....John Ireland

Introit: Of the Father’s Love Begotten Plainsong

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

† Greeting Chris Allen

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. This we ask in Christ’s name.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: *Hear the joyous news of Christmas: God has come to us in Christ Jesus, who gave himself for us while we were yet sinners. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!*

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven! 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.**
(You are invited to pass the peace of Christ to those around you.)

† An Act of Praise

Antiphon (Choir and Congregation)



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)**

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: Luke 2:1-20(pew Bible, page 832)
(The people will stand as the Gospel is brought into their midst.)

† Response to the Scripture:

Liturgist: *Great is the mystery of the incarnation.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Communion Meditation: Silent Night, Holy Night Michael Williams

Sermon Response.....Traditional German Carol; arr, Dunnevant
Silent Night

† Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed..... No. 880

The Offering.....Lisa Gwock

Anthem: There is No Rose.....John Joubert

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma.

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
and follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus.

† Presentation of the Offering and the Elements

† Doxology No. 95

† 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 (*Choir and Congregation*)



(People Seated)

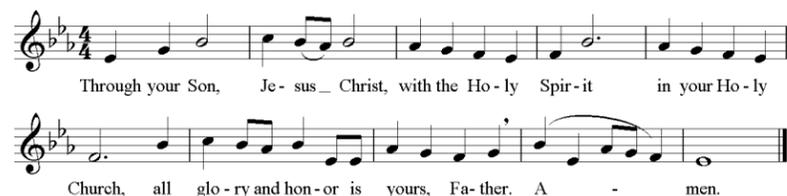
Prayer of Remembrance

People:



Prayer of Consecration

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.**

The Breaking of Bread and Taking of the Cup

After O Holy Night, the congregation is invited to sing the following hymns: 217, 229, 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.**

† Changing of the Chancel Paraments

We symbolize the transition from Advent expectation to Christmas celebration by changing the parament colors from purple to white.

† Lighting of the Christ Candle

SENDING FORTH

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

† Dismissal with Blessing

Celebrant: *Go forth in peace.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
People: **Amen.**

† Choral Response: Seven Fold Amen..... Peter Lutkin

Voluntary: Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella..... arr. Keith Chapman

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

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The poinsettias on the altar are given in loving memory of their mothers,
Carolyn Montgomery Smith and Emma Jean Ashton O'Bryan
by their sons, Monty Smith and Mark O'Bryan.

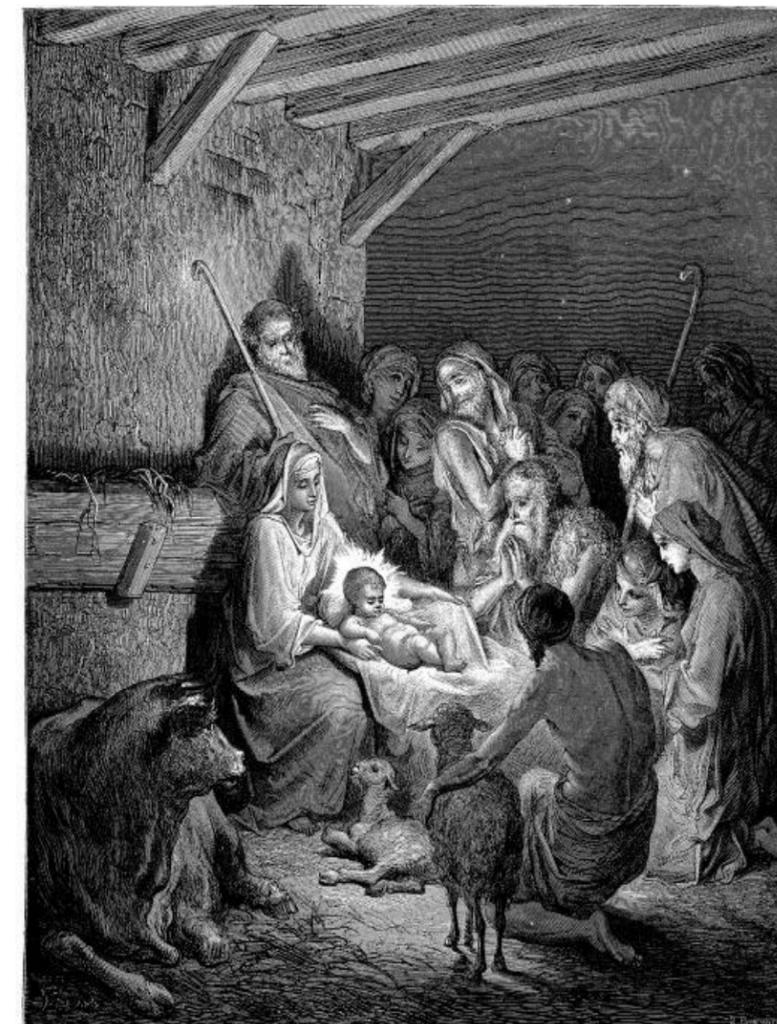
The texts used in this evening's Communion service are used in many Christian traditions. They help us to see our relationship to those around us as an expression of our relationship to God. This is best expressed as we confess our sins, are assured of God's forgiveness, and then express that forgiveness with those around us in the "Passing of the Peace." The Peace is an act of reconciliation and blessing, based on New Testament Christian practice. When we are reminded of God's love and mercy, our response is to share that gift with others. United in this forgiveness, we come to the table as a forgiven and reconciled community in love and charity with each other.

Tonight's Communion Offering will benefit Open Table Nashville. Open Table Nashville is a non-profit, interfaith community that disrupts cycles of poverty, journeys with the marginalized and provides education about issues of homelessness. They seek out and accompany the most vulnerable unhoused individuals and families, advocating with them and creatively networking available resources to open up opportunities for housing and other critical services. Contributions will be used to help with housing applications and deposits and with NES deposits when people are moving into permanent housing.

Music Participants:

The Chancel Choir, Minister of Music Matthew Phelps, director and assisting at the organ. The Sanctuary Choir, Associate Minister of Music Andrew Risinger, director and principal organist. Caitlin Dowling, organist and playing the opening voluntary. Ben Troxler, Baritone. Tucker Biddlecombe, tenor and playing guitar.

O Holy Night!



This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. ~Luke 2:12

Christmas Eve Service



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