

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
December 11, 2016 at Eleven o'clock
Third 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: Chorale Prelude: Wake, Awake for Night is Flying..... J. S. Bach

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: On Jordan's BankWilliam Monk
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of kings.

† Processional Hymn No. 61: Come Thou Almighty King.....Italian Hymn

† Greeting.....Stacy Gonzalez
Liturgist: *The land around us is a dry wilderness.*
People: **The Lord causes it to rejoice and blossom.**
Liturgist: *Our hands are weak and our knees are feeble.*
People: **The Lord says, "Be strong and do not fear".**
Liturgist: *We will come to Zion with singing.*
People: **And all of our sorrow will be replaced with joy.**

(Please be seated.)

Lighting the Advent Candle Members of the Hospitality Team
Jon, Sara, Aidan, and Connor Harris

Lesson from the Prophets: Isaiah 40:1-11.....(pew Bible, page 581)

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*)

**Holy Lord, you are with us in the desert and in the abundance.
In this season of Advent,
draw us close to your heart
so that we might see the world as you see it.
Open our hearts that we might confess our own participation
in creating a world in which so many suffer.
Forgive us for our apathy, our disconnection,
and our misplaced priorities.
Free us from shame so that we do not become paralyzed
by the acknowledgment of our sin,
Give us courage to believe that your joy can truly replace all sorrow,
and give us strength to make this joy more abundant
in our families, our communities,
our country, and the entire world.**

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.)

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 Old Testament: Isaiah 35:1-10.....(pew Bible, page 578)

Response to the Lesson

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

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19.....Stephen Elvey

† Hymn No. 196: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus.....Hyfrydol
*The children are invited to come forward to join Michael at the chancel
during the last stanza of the hymn.*

Sermon: Come, Thou, Almighty King.....Michael Williams

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

Joys & Concerns of the Church..... Erin Racine

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: Lord, we Beseech Thee Adrian Batten
Lord we beseech thee give ear unto our prayers: and by thy gracious
visitation lighten the darkness of our hearts by our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

† Doxology No. 95

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 209: Blessed Be the God of Israel.....Merle's Tune

† Benediction

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

Voluntary.....Johann Pachelbel
Prelude on From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

*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 Jane and Chase Delony,
Patty Chadwell, Lillian and Robert Chadwell,
and Ellen and James Hofstead
by Patty and Frances Delony.

Music Participants: The Chancel Choir. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps,
is directing and assisting at the organ. Associate Andrew Risinger is
organist/accompanist.

Hymnic Notes:

The processional, one of our most singable hymns of praise, has roots in mid-18th century British evangelical teachings that counter Unitarian notions of deity, and clearly define which king is King. Affirming the latter, Lutheran hymnologist, Paul Westermeyer states the hymn 'voices the church's countercultural claim against 'any human being, agency or state as ultimate.

The central themes of the "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" flow from Hebraic Messianic expectation – long-expected freedom, release, rest and consolation, and hope – and the Christian fulfillment of that expectation in a child whose birth brought and continues to bring deliverance from the bondage of sin for the whole human family and the establishment of God's gracious reign in our hearts. Rowland H. Prichard stated he composed HYFRYDOL (meaning, pleasant and melodious) as an alternative to the 'empty and defiling songs,' sung in Welsh Sunday Schools.

The recessional hymn is a lyrical paraphrase of the "Canticle of Zechariah (see left facing page 208), in which Zechariah, the father of John of Baptist, prophecies his son will prepare the way for God's 'mighty Savior.' (Hymnic Notes by Carlton Young)

The Candlelighting Service is this afternoon at 5:30 p.m.

This long time West End tradition retells the story of the prophecy and birth of Christ through congregational carols as well as carols sung by the adult and childrens choirs of West End.

The service ends with everyone lighting a candle and singing Silent Night. Handbell choirs begin ringing carols at 5:10 p.m.

December 11, 2016

Preaching: Michael Williams
"Come, Thou, Almighty King"

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

West End United Methodist Church

PASTORAL STAFF

Members of West End United Methodist Church Ministers
Michael WilliamsSenior Pastor
Erin Racine Pastor of Hospitality and Congregational Care
Chris Allen.....Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Becky Peeler Pastor of Children and Family Ministries
Lisa Gwock Pastor of Missions & Outreach
Nancy ParkerPastor of Young Adults
Ewart WattsPastor at Richland Place

PROGRAM STAFF

Matthew Phelps Minister of Music
Andrew Risinger Associate Minister of Music
Caitlin DowlingMusic Intern
Emily Robbins.....Minister of Youth
Shelley Kuhlmeier..... Communications Director
Stacy Gonzalez.....Congregational Care Intern
Christe' Blackshear.....Intern
Dane Van Eys.....Youth Intern
Don Marler..... Minister of Music Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kim Young Property Operations Manager
Sandra DurbinChurch Financial Officer
Melanie Paulson..... Human Resources Director
Cindy SiemerSenior Administrative Assistant/Membership
Julie Catterton..... Assistant to Senior Pastor, Youth, & Children
Charity Van De Griek.....Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Bob Hilton Building Engineer
Richard Thomas.....Custodian

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES

Lynn McClary Executive Director
Sandy Gilbert Program Director
Tim Padlick.....Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

*To reach a member of the staff by email,
use their first initial with their last name at westendumc.org
except for Bob Hilton, Don Marler, and Ewart Watts.*



*The Loving Light of Christ
Connecting, Transforming*



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