

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
December 20, 2015 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: Prelude on Veni Emmanuel.....Marilyn Biery

Welcome.....Nancy Hawthorne
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: The King Shall Come.....Jeremiah Clarke
The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty bring: "Hail Christ the Lord!" thy people pray. Come quickly King of Kings.

† Processional Hymn 234 vs. 1-3: O Come, All Ye Faithful.....Adeste Fideles

† Greeting.....Erin Racine
Liturgist: *The Mighty One has done great things for us.*
People: **Holy is God's name!**
Liturgist: *God has lifted up the lowly,*
People: **And filled the hungry with good things.**
Liturgist: *Let us proclaim the goodness of our God!*
People: **Let us rejoice in God our Savior!**

(Please be seated.)

Lighting the Advent Candle..... WE Youth
Mary Cayten Brakefield and Jackson Bryant

Lesson from the Prophets: Micah 5:2-5a.....(pew Bible, page 756)

Congregational Response.....Veni Emmanuel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**Eternal God, you have given us so much,
and we have failed to be faithful.
You give us mystery, and we deny its power.
You give us prophecy, and we refuse its calling.
You give us wisdom, and we behave foolishly.**

**You shower us with blessings,
and we sell them for the sake of our own vain desires.**

Forgive us, God.

**Help us do what is right,
and say what is true,
and love as passionately as you love.**

**Give us the mind of Christ
so that we might bring peace to this world.**

We pray in Jesus' name.

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: Hail, O Virgin Mother, Bearer of God.....Sergei Rachmaninoff

Hail, O Virgin Mother, bearer of God, holy Mary full of grace;
The Lord with thee: blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb;
for thou has brought forth the Savior who has redeemed
our souls.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Advent Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*).....Trey Harrell
**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 1:39-55 (pew Bible, page 831)

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 Nancy at the chancel during the last stanza of the hymn.

Sermon: The Visit.....Nancy Hawthorne

† Affirmation of Faith of the United Church of Canada No. 883

Joys & Concerns of the Church Michael Williams

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 (Collegium Regale)Herbert Howells

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 holpen 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

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 238: Angels We Have Heard on High.....Gloria

† Benediction

† Benediction Response (all sing): Rejoice, Rejoice!..... Traditional
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

*All are invited to remain seated for a time of reflection.
If you leave, please do so quietly.*

† *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.

Sallyann Morrison Riley,
daughter of Robert Milton Riley, IV and Lindsay Byrd Riley,
was presented for baptism at the eight forty-five service.

A rose on the altar is in celebration
of the birth of Madeline Jane Gambill
who was born December 7, 2015
to Jodie and Eric Gambill.
She is also welcomed by
sister, Ella Gambill.

A rose on the altar is in celebration
of the birth of Carlisle Francis Smith
who was born November 2, 2015
to Kelly and Phil Smith.
She is also welcomed by
brother, Ellis Smith.

Today's Music:

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

Herbert Howells is one of the most prolific twentieth century British composers
of Anglican choral music. His service entitled "Collegium Regale" is one of his
most popular settings of the Magnificat, rivaled only by the St. Paul's service.
In 1935, Herbert Howells lost his nine year old son to Polio, and this tragedy
and the chaos of World War II affected his compositions throughout the rest of
his life. This can be heard in the Magnificat setting that will be sung today.

Today's liturgy was written by Anna Carter Florence.

December 20, 2015
Preaching: Nancy Hawthorne
"The Visit"

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town
in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the
child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this
happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as
soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb
leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would
be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And
Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in
God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of
his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me
blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and
holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from
generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he
has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has
brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the
lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich
away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of
his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to
Abraham and to his descendants forever."



*The Loving Light of Christ
Connecting, Transforming*



2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org