

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
December 25, 2016 at Eleven o'clock
Christmas Day

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth. In the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born in Bethlehem of Judea.

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, is our celebration of the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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: Angels We Have Heard on High.....Timothy Albrecht

Welcome.....Michael Williams

Introit: Today Christ is Born.....Plainchant
Today Christ is born, today the Savior has appeared, today the righteous rejoice, saying Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

† Processional Hymn No. 234: O Come, All Ye Faithful.....Adeste Fideles
(Verses 1-3, and 6)

† Greeting.....Erin Racine
Liturgist: *This morning the ruins of Jerusalem burst into song.*
People: **We who once were silent sing songs of joy**
Liturgist: *A voice shouts from the mountains, proclaiming peace to all.*
People: **We who were oppressed declare peace to the nations**
Liturgist: *Rejoice, Jerusalem! For you have been redeemed.*
People: **We celebrate the one who restores us, who fills the world with grace upon grace.**

† Lighting of the Christ Candle (John 1:1-14)

Response: 220, Verse 1.....Regent Square
Angels from the Realms of Glory

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth;
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of light,

**we are overcome by darkness,
dazzled by the false brilliance of passing pleasures,
financial gain, and our own self-interest.**

Let us turn this Christmas,

**away from these distractions
and toward the miracle of your incarnation:**

The light in the darkness,

the voice in the wilderness.

Emmanuel, God among us,

**redeem us from our imprisonment,
illuminate our way,
and reconcile us once more to peace.**

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

Carol: No. 230: O Little Town of Bethlehem.....St. Louis

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

As we come to hear the Scriptures today, O Lord, stir up our hearts, that we may welcome your incarnate Son. By His coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path, that we may walk the way that leads to eternal life; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Lesson from the Old Testament: Isaiah 52:7-10(pew Bible, page 596)

Lesson from the Gospel: John 1:1-14(pew Bible, page 862)
Response to the Lesson

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

† Hymn No. 217: Away in a Manger.....Away in a Manger
The children are invited to come forward to join Michael at the chancel during the last stanza of the hymn.

A Time for All God's ChildrenMichael Williams

† Hymn No. 238: Angels We Have Heard On HighGloria

Joys & Concerns of the Church.....Chris Allen

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: Gesu Bambino.....Pietro Yon

† Doxology.....No. 95

SENDING FORTH

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

† Benediction

† Benediction Response.....Gloria
Angels We Have Heard On High (Refrain)
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Voluntary: Postlude on "Adeste Fideles"Eric Thiman
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 Poinsettias on the Alter 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.

Liturgy written by Jayme Yeo.

Music Participants: Caitlin Dowling, organist. Margy Bredemann, soprano.

Hymnic Notes:

Our processional, one of the most widely sung Christmas hymns, is especially appropriate for this Christmas Day service. The first stanza and refrain may be sung in either English or Latin.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Phillips Brooks, rector of Holy Trinity [Episcopal] Church in Philadelphia, was inspired during his Christmas-week journey, in 1865, from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Several weeks prior to Christmas 1868 he presented this vivid and imaginative text to the children of the parish's Sunday school and requested the church organist, Lewis H. Redner, set it to music. The result was this enduring Victorian-style setting sung by 36 children and their teachers in the church's annual Christmas program.

"Angels We Have Heard on High", a favorite of all ages, is adapted from an 18th century carol titled, 'L'echo des montagnes de Béthléém' (The echo of the mountains of Bethlehem) that included 10 stanzas in French and a Latin refrain, 'Gloria in excelsis Deo' (Glory to God in the highest).

(Hymnic Notes by Carlton Young)

December 25, 2016
Preaching: Michael Williams

*Beautiful are the feet of the one who announces peace.
Beautiful is the song of the one who announces peace.
Beautiful is the presence of the one who is Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

West End United Methodist Church PASTORAL STAFF

Members of West End United Methodist Church Ministers
Michael Williams Senior 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 Parker Pastor of Young Adults
Ewart Watts Pastor at Richland Place

PROGRAM STAFF

Matthew Phelps Minister of Music
Andrew Risinger Associate Minister of Music
Caitlin Dowling Music 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

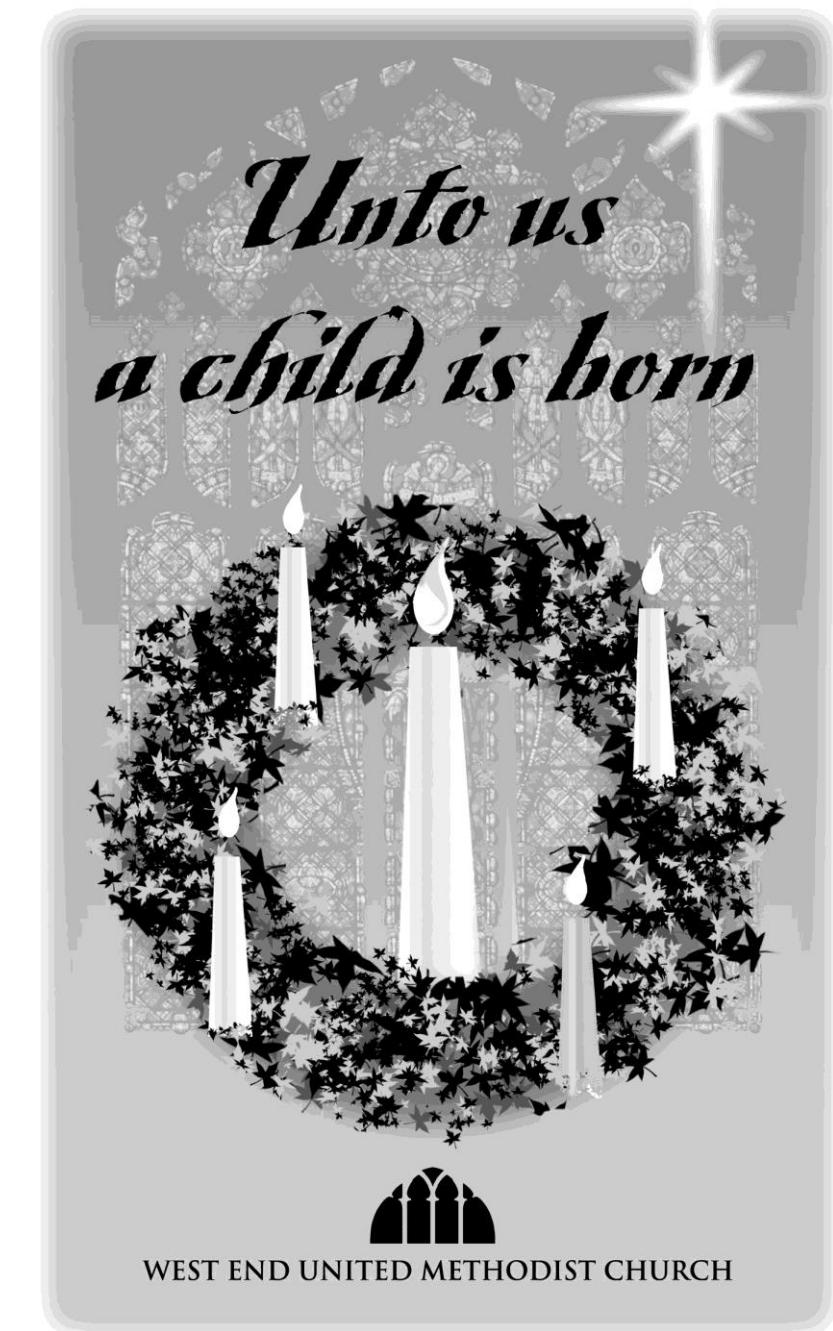
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kim Young Property Operations Manager
Sandra Durbin Church Financial Officer
Melanie Paulson Human Resources Director
Cindy Siemer Senior 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.*



WEST END UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org