

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
December 27, 2015 at Eleven o'clock
First Sunday after Christmas Day

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: Cradle Song.....Henry Ley

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: Today Christ is Born.....Chant

† Processional Hymn No. 220.....Regent Square
Angels from the Realms of Glory

† Greeting.....Lisa Gwock
Liturgist: *Praise the Lord, all the earth, from the highest heights to the deepest depths!*
People: **Let everything sing and shout praise to the Creator!**
Liturgist: *Praise the Lord, all the heavens and starry host!*
People: **All throughout the universe may praise to God abound!**
Liturgist: *Come, let us joyfully praise God!*
People: **Let us live our praise in deeds of loving kindness. AMEN.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

God of wonder,
you surround us with signs of your glory
and surprise us with your presence,
yet we often miss the marvels you place before us.
Forgive our dullness and make us alert
to the ways you make yourself known,
that we might be witnesses to your good news
and proclaim your extravagant love;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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: Still, Still, Still.....Austrian Carol arr. Luboff

Still, Still, Still, one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, The world is sleeping, holy star its vigil keeping. Sleep 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream of the joyous day to come.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Liturgist: *Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?*

People: **With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround them with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Commendation and Welcome

† Liturgist: *Members of the household of God, I commend Callie Lucille and Beckham James 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.**

† Musical Response No. 611, st. 1
Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign:
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*).....John Nance
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 Gospel: Luke 2:41-52..... (pew Bible, page 833)

Response to the Lesson

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

† Hymn No. 251: Go, Tell It on the MountainGo Tell It on the Mountain
The children are invited to come forward to join Michael at the chancel during the last stanza of the hymn.

Sermon: Lost and Found.....Michael Williams

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

Joys & Concerns of the Church.....Becky Peeler

Salutation

Liturgist: *The Lord be with you.*
People: **And also with you.**
Liturgist: *Let us pray.*

Prayers of the People

(Loving God: Hear our prayer)

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: Carol For Christmas.....Traditional Carol

O'er the world the angels sing, Never was such caroling, Hark a voice which loudly cries, "Mortals wake and rise!" Lo to gladness turns your sadness; from the earth is ris'n a Son, God in flesh to us has come. Hail O Son, O blessed light, Sent into this world by night; let thy rays and heavenly powers shine in these vast souls of ours. For most duly, Thou art truly God and man we o confess; Hail O Son of righteousness.

† Doxology.....No. 95

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 240: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.....Mendelssohn

† Benediction

† Response (all sing): Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Voluntary: Toccata on Hark the Herald Angels Sing.....David Willcocks
*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

Beckham James Morel,
son of Mark Francis Morel and Kathryn Sandlin Morel,
is presented for baptism.

Callie Lucille Orr,
daughter of John Stratton Orr, Jr. and Melissa Brabham Orr,
is presented for baptism.

Music Participants: The Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Choir.
Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps organist-director.

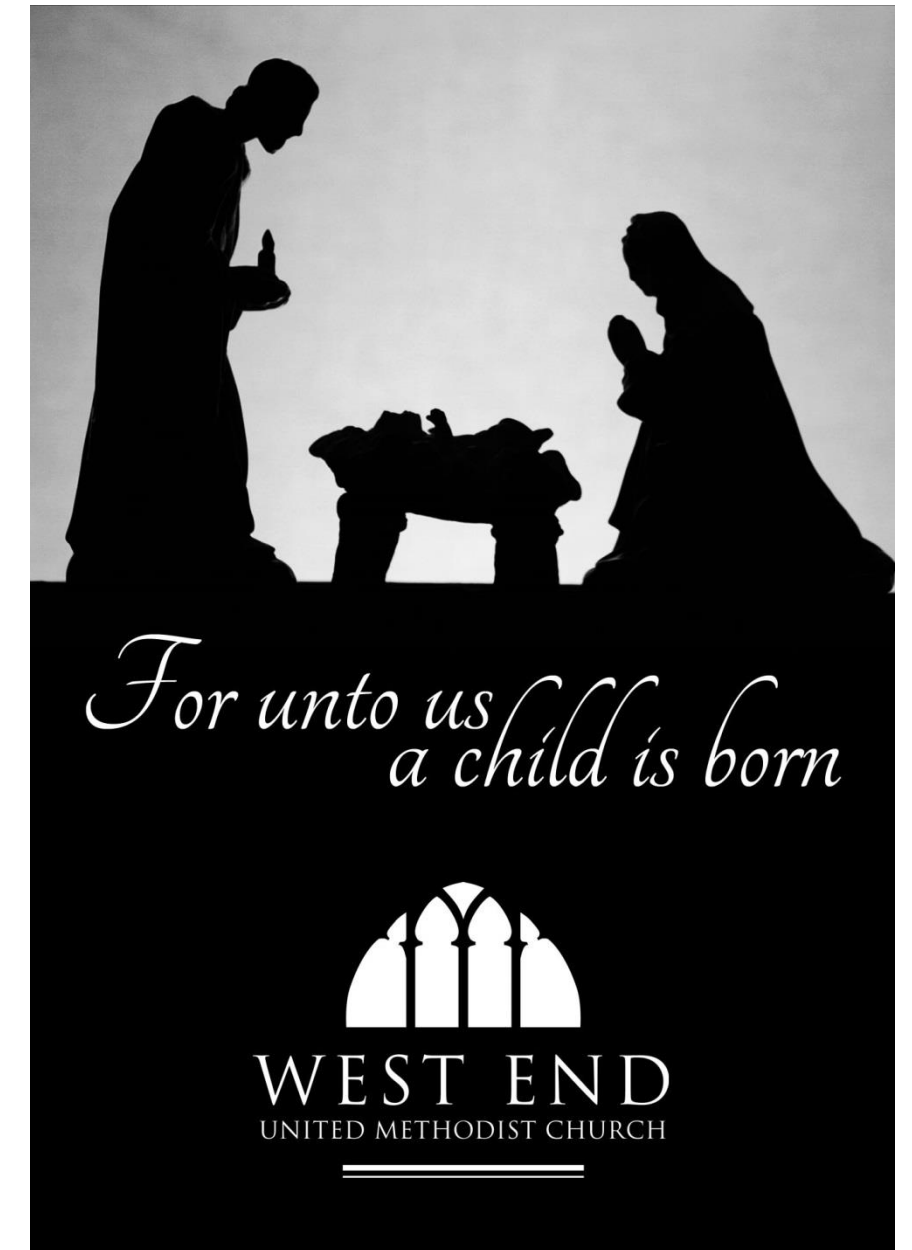
"Go Tell it on the Mountain" is an African American Spiritual Song, which was collected by John Wesley Work Jr. It dates back to 1865; however, the version we sing in churches was arranged by William Farley Smith in 1986. It was printed in the Pilgrim's Hymnal in 1958 and first appeared in the Methodist Hymnal in 1966.

December 27, 2015
Preaching: Michael Williams
"Lost and Found"

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

WEST END
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*The Loving Light of Christ
Connecting, Transforming*

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