

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
December 6, 2015 at Eleven o'clock
Second 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.....William Lloyd Webber
Fantasy on Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending

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

† Processional Hymn No. 718..... Helmsley
Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

† Greeting..... Nancy Hawthorne
Liturgist: *Grace to you, and peace from God.*
People: **As Advent people
we give thanks to the One who is faithful.**
Liturgist: *Let us proclaim the wonder of God
who came, is coming, and will always come.*
People: **In word, action, and with gentleness of spirit,
we celebrate the Advent of our God.**

(Please be seated.)

Lighting the Advent Candle..... College Students: Justin Bowen,
Neethu Thampy, Samantha Seifert, and Carolyn Zeng

Lesson from the Prophets: Malachi 3:1-4.....(pew Bible, page 778)

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

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)
**Merciful God, we confess
that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

† Words of Assurance
Liturgist: *Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. 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

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 3:1-8..... (pew Bible, page 834)

Response to the Lesson

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

Communion Meditation: The Voice Michael Williams

Joys & Concerns of the Church Erin Racine

The Offering

Offertory: And the Glory of the Lord (*from Messiah*).....G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. (Isaiah 40:56)

† Presentation of the Offering and the Elements

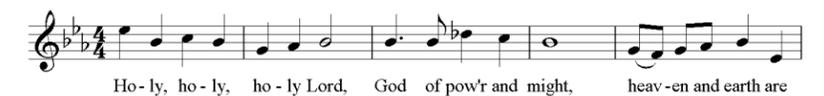
† DoxologyNo. 95

† 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*)



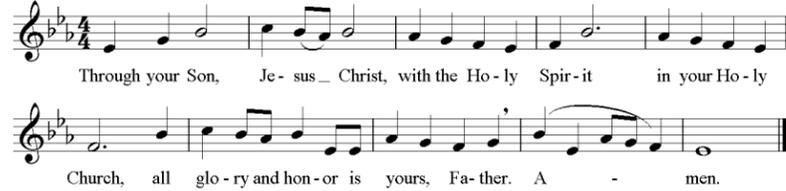
Prayer of Remembrance

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

The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the following hymns during communion: 626, 214, and 198.

† 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.**

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 213 Truro
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

† 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.**

† Benediction Response: Rejoice, Rejoice! Veni Emmanuel

Voluntary: Chorale Prelude on *Hyfrydol*Ralph Vaughan Williams
*All are invited to remain seated for a time of reflection.
If you leave, please do so quietly.*

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

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Head Usher: Barbara Cragg

The altar flowers are given today to the glory of God
by Cathy Sullivan
in memory of
her husband, Robert Lee Sullivan.

The wedding flowers last week in Reed Hall
were from the wedding of
Caroline Hughes and John McClelland.

The rose on the altar is in celebration
of the birth of Evelyn Ruth Siltan
who was born November 26, 2015 in Atlanta, GA
to Kristen and Jordan Siltan.
She is also welcomed by
her big brother, Benji Siltan and
grandparents, Lisa and Eddie Gwock.

The texts used in today'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.

Today's Music:

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

Our processional hymn this morning is Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending. This is a new hymn for us which we sing again for the fourth week of advent. With words by Charles Wesley and a traditional 18th century English tune, this hymn is a joyful account depicting Christ's imminent coming to earth.



*The Loving Light of Christ
Connecting, Transforming*

