

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
January 3, 2016 at Eleven o'clock  
Epiphany Sunday

*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: How Brightly Shines the Morning Star.....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: O Light Everlasting..... Jean Pasquet  
O light everlasting, O love never failing, do thou raise us by thy love, and draw us near to thee.

† Processional Hymn No. 245: The First Noel.....The First Noel

† Greeting.....Emily Robbins  
Liturgist: *This morning, let us turn our hearts to pilgrimage.*  
People: **Let us walk along the ways of the Lord.**  
Liturgist: *This morning, let us listen to Christ's guidance.*  
People: **The path of Christ is life-giving and abundant.**  
Liturgist: *This morning, let us seek our destination in the eternal.*  
People: **Let us travel together as pilgrims, and as one.**

† 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*)  
**Spirit of God,**  
**in the proclamation of your Word,**  
**Reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ,**  
**and strengthen our faith**  
**that we may approach you with boldness. Amen.**

Lesson from the Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12..... (pew Bible, page 783)

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

Communion Meditation: We Are a Pilgrim People..... Michael Williams

Joys & Concerns of the Church..... Nancy Hawthorne

The Offering

Offertory: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt ..... Carl Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angels word, I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; But there is room and welcome there for me. In that unlikely place I find him as they said: Sweet, newborn Babe, how frail, and in a manger bed: A still small voice to cry one day for me. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare: A Son, a Child for me. Can I forget how Love was born and burned its way into my heart: unasked, unearned, to die to live, And not alone for me. (Jaroslav J. Vajda)

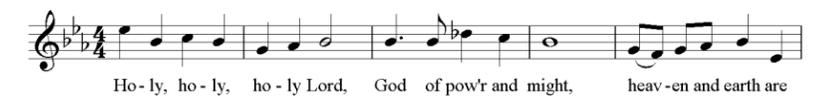
† Presentation of the Offering and the Elements

† Doxology ..... No. 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*)



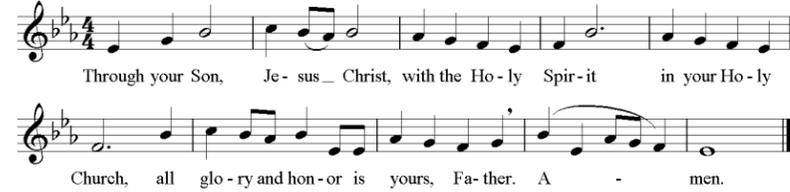
Prayer of Remembrance

People:

Prayer of Consecration

Head Usher: Barbara Cragg

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: 216, 242, 219.*

† 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. 254: We Three Kings ..... Kings of Orient

† 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.**

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

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Voluntary: Toccata on Vom Himmel Hoch ..... Garth Edmundson

*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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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.

Today's Music: *We Three Kings* was written by John Henry Hopkins, Jr. in 1857. It was written for a Christmas Pageant held at General Theological Seminary in New York City where Hopkins served as the music teacher after his Diaconate graduation in 1850. It was first published in 1862 and has subsequently been published by most major Christian denominations, making it one of the most widely known carols in the world.

Today's liturgy was written by Jayme Yeo.

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.

**January 3, 2016  
 Preaching: Michael Williams  
 "We Are a Pilgrim People"**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judah; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.**



*The Loving Light of Christ  
 Connecting, Transforming*



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