

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
November 29, 2015 at Eleven o'clock  
First 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: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659.....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: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.....Christian Witt  
Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

† Processional Hymn No. 211 vs. 1-4.....Veni Emmanuel  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

† Greeting.....Erin Racine  
Liturgist: *We call on Christ, the hope of the world.*  
People: **The hope of Christ lights our darkness.**  
Liturgist: *We turn to Christ, the sacrifice for the world.*  
People: **The sacrifice of Christ restores our life.**  
Liturgist: *We rest in Christ, the redemption of the world.*  
People: **The redemption of Christ renews our souls.**

*(Please be seated.)*

Lighting the Advent Candle.....Members of the Upper Room S.S. Class

Lesson from the Prophets: Jeremiah 33:14-16.....(pew Bible, page 645)

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

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**We confess that we are too easily distracted  
by our own temporary concerns:  
We embrace pleasures that do not satisfy  
and nurture helplessness amid our anxieties.  
In so doing, we miss the signs of your presence:  
your joy in the gift of love,  
your hope in the midst of suffering.  
Teach us to awaken to your arrival in our lives.  
Transform our frailty by your power,  
our afflictions by your healing,  
our failings by your grace.**

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: Keep Your Lamps..... African American Spiritual, arr. Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children don't get weary, till your work is done.  
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Advent Prayer for Illumination

**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 Gospel: Luke 21:25-36..... (pew Bible, page 857)

Response to the Lesson

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

† Hymn No. 206: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light. ....Houston  
*The children are invited to come forward to join Michael at the chancel during the last stanza of the hymn.*

Sermon: Signs of the Times.....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

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 .....G.F. Handel  
O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion (from Messiah)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah: Behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

† Doxology .....No. 95

**SENDING FORTH**

† Recessional Hymn No. 203: Hail to the Lord's Anointed .....Ellacombe

† Benediction

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

Voluntary: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come.....Johann Pachelbel

*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 Dr. Robert Deaver Collins, Sr. by his family.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Lucas Ezra Dunnivant who was born November 14, 2015 to Linda and Daniel Dunnivant . He is welcomed also by his brother, Keith Dunnivant.

Today's liturgy was written by Jayme Yeo.

Today's Music:

Music Participants: The Chancel Choir. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps, director and Associate Andrew Risinger is organist/accompanist. Colleen Phelps is playing percussion this morning. Monica Coombs, alto.

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* is one of the oldest and most well-known hymns associated with Advent. The text has its origins in the "O Antiphons" which have been in existence since 700 A.D. The current hymn text is a translation of a paraphrase of these antiphons that emerged in the 18th century; while the music stems from 15th century French sources.

*Keep your Lamps* is a traditional African-American Spiritual that speaks of the Lord's second-coming. The first week of Advent focuses on the second coming of God, while the later weeks of Advent shift the focus to preparations for Christ's appearance on earth as an infant.

November 29, 2015  
Preaching: Michael Williams  
"Signs of the Times"

**Luke 21:25-36**

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."  
Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

## 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  
Becky Peeler .....Pastor of Children and Family Ministries  
Lisa Gwock .....Pastor of Missions & Outreach  
Nancy Hawthorne .....Pastor of Christian Formation  
Ewart Watts .....Pastor at Richland Place

### PROGRAM STAFF

Matthew Phelps .....Minister of Music  
Andrew Risinger ..... Associate Minister of Music  
Caitlin Dowling .....Music Intern  
Shelley Kuhlmeier ..... Communications Director  
Hannah Riley ..... Youth Program Coordinator  
Amy Lynch ..... Youth Logistics Coordinator  
Stacy Gonzalez ..... Congregational Care Intern  
Christe' Blackshear .....Intern  
Don Marler ..... Minister of Music Emeritus  
Martha Stamps .....Food and Creation Care Partner

### 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  
Kirk Clark ..... Receptionist/ Administrative Assistant  
Bob Hilton ..... Building Engineer

### WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES

Lynn McClary ..... Executive Director  
Sandy Gilbert ..... Program Director

*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.*



*The Loving Light of Christ  
Connecting, Transforming*



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