

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
January 8, 2017 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 StarJ. 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: What Star is This Michael Praetorius
What star is this that beams so bright more lovely than the noonday light? Tis sent to announce a newborn King, glad tidings of our God to bring.

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

† Greeting.....Bill Miller
Liturgist: *This morning a light breaks into the darkness.*
People: **We who were in darkness are guided by the light.**
Liturgist: *As the magi once did, we seek today the light of Christ.*
People: **We follow the path illuminated by Christ.**
Liturgist: *The light of Christ is the revelation of God's presence in the world.*
People: **We celebrate the revelation of grace that shines into our darkness.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)
**Christ, revelation of God on earth,
this Epiphany we confess
that we do not always see you in the world.
We turn away from the path you illuminate,
and instead make our own maps.
Guided by our own desires,
we stumble down dark ways,
filled with fear of the future,
uncertain about our next steps.
Let us learn to recognize
your presence in the world.
Let us remember that wisdom
does not come from knowing what lies ahead,
but from following the light
as we walk with you.**

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: Unto Us Is Born a Son.....David Willcocks

Unto us is born a Son, king of quires supernal: see on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal. Christ, from heav'n descending low, comes on earth a stranger; ox and ass their owner know, becradled in the manger. This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder, so he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer. Of his love and mercy mild this the Christmas story; and O the Mary's gentle child might lead us up to glory. O and A, and A and O, cum cantibus in choro, let our merry organ go, benedicamus Domino.
(tr. G. R. Woodward)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination
**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read and the Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Lesson from the Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12.....(pew Bible, pgs. 783-784)

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

† Hymn No. 219: What Child is This.....Greensleeves
The children are invited to come forward to join Michael at the chancel during the last stanza of the hymn.

Sermon: I Saw the Light.....Michael Williams

† Affirmation from I Timothy 2:5-6; 1:15; 3:16..... No. 889

Joys & Concerns of the Church.....Kirk McNeill

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: Midwinter..... Bob Chilcott
Text can be found in The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 221.

† Doxology.....No. 95

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 254: We Three KingsKings of Orient

† Benediction

† Response (all sing) Hymn No. 238 (Refrain).....Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Voluntary: Postlude on "Dix".....William H. Harris
*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 altar flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of a wonderful son, Max Coppinger Nance, and in honor of the 18th anniversary of his birth on January 7 by his parents, Margo Coppinger-Nance and John Nance.

Margaret Debely Weiss and Peter Lawson Weiss, children of Michael Joshua Weiss and Vivian Lee Weiss, were presented for baptism at the early service.

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

Hymnic Notes:

The processional is an English carol that connects the narratives of Jesus's birth (Luke 2:1-20), and the coming of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12). The French word 'Noel' (from the Latin 'natalis,') in the first line denotes 'Jesus's birth, and in the refrain it is linked to 'nouvelle' as an announcement, 'News, news, news, news.'

The concluding carol, consisting of verses and a chorus, was composed as a surprise Christmas gift to the author's nieces and nephew. It is one of several carols that link Jesus's birth and passion. Although the biblical account indicates unnumbered Magi came from the east to pay homage to the Christ-child, early traditions call them 'kings,' and because of their three gifts fix their number at three. By the early middle-ages they are named Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar. The author of this carol intended each of verses 2, 3, and 4 to be sung by a king. (Hymnic Notes by Carlton Young)

January 8, 2017
Preaching: Michael Williams
"I Saw the Light"

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 Judea; 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.

WEST END
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*The Loving Light of Christ
Connecting, Transforming*

