

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
January 8, 2017 at Eight Forty-five  
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: What Star is This.....Michael Praetorius  
What star is this that beams so bright more lovely than the noontday 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.....Nancy Parker  
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

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 children 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 Margaret Debely and Peter Lawson 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

**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.**

† Gloria Patri.....No. 71  
*The children are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri to join Michael at the chancel.*

**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.)*

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: What is This Lovely Fragrance? .....arr. Healey Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!  
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, hear you not heav'nly caroling?  
What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?  
Never the morning star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies.  
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps seek the savior born today.  
Low at his feet we lay our treasure, heart's adoration, love for aye.

† Doxology .....No. 95

SENDING FORTH

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

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: For Your Light Has Come .....Ronald A. Nelson

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: John Nance

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,  
are presented for baptism.

Music Participants: The Sanctuary Choir. Associate Minister of Music,  
Andrew Risinger is directing. 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*



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