

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
March 19, 2017 at Eight Forty-five  
Third Sunday of Lent

*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: Solemn Melody.....Walford Davies

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: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days.....Richard Redhead

† Processional Hymn No. 60.....Old 113<sup>th</sup>  
I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

† Greeting.....Chris Allen  
Liturgist: *Jesus welcomes us with peace and forgiveness.*  
People: **Yet we are stuck in the mire of our doubts and fears.**  
Liturgist: *Jesus welcomes us with hope and healing.*  
People: **But we continue in our stubborn ways.**  
Liturgist: *Jesus, come among us once more to offer words of grace.*  
People: **May our hearts, minds, and souls be open to receive your grace.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**God of Grace and Glory,  
we confess that we often turn from you  
and wander far from your presence.**

**Forgive us,  
when we measure success by getting our own way,  
when we measure happiness by our possessions,  
when we measure our value by what others think,  
when we forget you measure life  
in compassion, generosity, and forgiveness.**

**Heal us, Merciful God,  
from the shackles of our pride and anxiety,  
so that we may be restored in your grace. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Lenten Prayer for Illumination

**Holy God, Word made flesh, let us hear this word open to your voice. Silence our agendas, confound our expectations, and clear the cobwebs from our ears. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.**

Lesson from the New Testament.....(pew Bible, pages 915-916)  
Romans 3: 19-24

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: Grace as a Gift.....Michael Williams

† Affirmation: I Corinthians 15:1-6 and Colossians 1:15-20.....No. 888

† 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.)*

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

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: O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts.....Allen Orton Gibbs

O Jesus, joy of loving hearts, fount of life and our true light, we seek the peace your love imparts, and stand rejoicing in your sight.  
Adoramus te, Domine.

For you our restless spirits yearn where-e'er our changing lot is cast; glad, when your presence we discern, blest, when our faith can hold you fast. Adoramus te, Domine. O Jesus, ever with us stay; make all our moments calm and bright; oh, turn the dark of night away, shed o'er the world your holy light.  
Adoramus te, Domine. (*att. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1090-1153*)

† Doxology.....No. 95

**SENDING FORTH**

† Recessional Hymn No. 547: O Church of God, United.....Ellacombe

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: Amen.....Orlando Gibbons

Voluntary: Toccata from *Suite Gothique*.....Leon Boëllmann  
*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 Ushers: John Nance and Byron Burrus

The altar flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Fred and Wilma Mitchell by Mary Mitchell who will never forget the policy of love they taught me.

Music Participants: The Sanctuary Choir. Associate Minister of Music, Andrew Risinger-director. Caitlin Dowling is assisting at the organ.

Hymnic Notes: The processional is a hymn of endless praise, that celebrates a God of justice and freedom who identifies with the oppressed poor and helpless. It has appeared with this sturdy tune in every Methodist hymnal since 1780. The recessional was written for the Second Assembly of The World Council of Churches, Evanston, Illinois, 1954, and reflects that gathering's energy, optimism, and hopes for Christian unity.  
*(Hymnic notes by Carlton Young)*

March 19, 2017  
Preaching: Michael Williams  
"Grace as a Gift"

**Romans 3: 19-24**

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

**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  
Chris Allen.....Pastor of Spiritual Formation  
Becky Peeler.....Pastor of Children and Family Ministries  
Lisa Gwock ..... Pastor of Missions & Outreach  
Nancy Parker..... Pastor of Young Adults  
Ewart Watts .....Pastor at Richland Place

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Andrew Risinger..... Associate Minister of Music  
Caitlin Dowling.....Music Intern  
Emily Robbins.....Minister of Youth  
Shelley Kuhlmeier..... Communications Director  
Stacy Gonzalez.....Congregational Care Intern  
Christe' Blackshear.....Intern  
Dane Van Eys..... Youth Intern  
Don Marler.....Minister of Music Emeritus

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

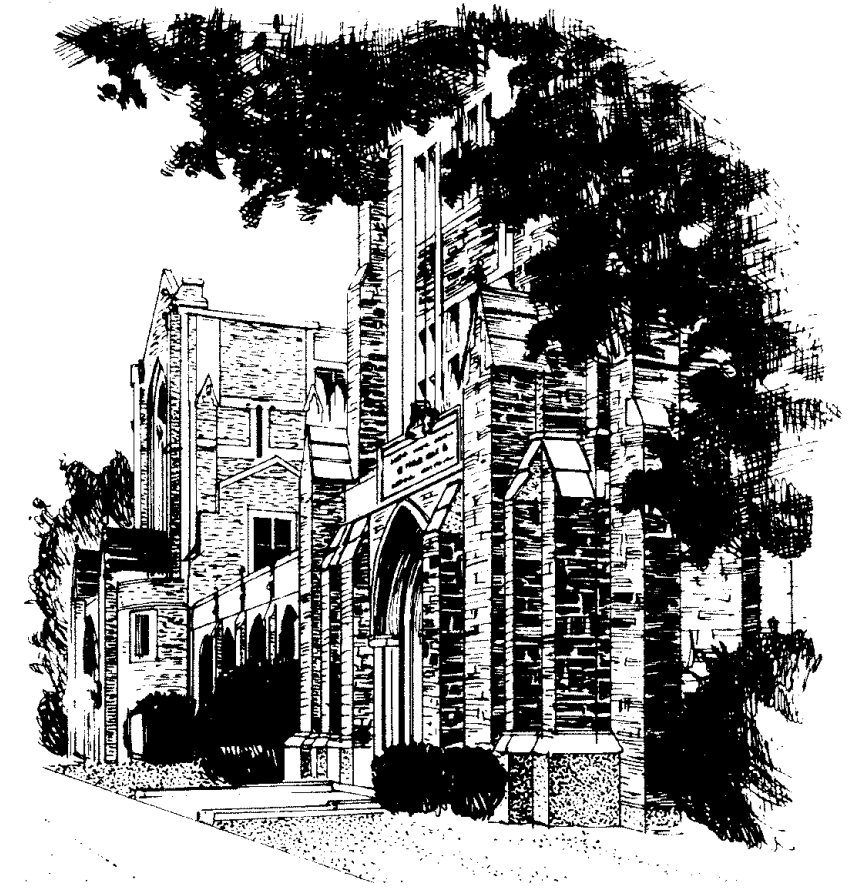
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Marty Gilbert.....Multi-media Manager  
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Richard Thomas.....Custodian

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Lynn McClary..... Executive Director  
Sandy Gilbert..... Program Director  
Tim Padlick.....Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

*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.*

**WEST END**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*The Loving Light of Christ  
Connecting, Transforming*



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