

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
May 21, 2017 at Eight Forty-five
Sixth Sunday of Easter

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: Adagio in E MajorFrank Bridge

WelcomeChris Allen
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 Jesus Christ17th c. German

† Processional Hymn No. 66.....Lauda Anima
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

† Greeting.....Lisa Gwock
Liturgist: *Look for God in this place.*
People: **We search for God's love and peace.**
Liturgist: *It is here, given for you out of God's absolute love for you.*
People: **Lord, help us receive that love and then take it to others.**
Liturgist: *Peace be to you all.*
People: **And also to you. Amen.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)
Maker and Giver of all,
forgive us when we are too preoccupied
to notice your presence in our lives:
When we walk through this world
and fail to see you upholding our lives and all creation;
When we walk through our lives
and fail to see you abiding with, within, and around us;
When we walk through holy moments
and fail to savor your presence,
instead feeling abandoned in the vast sweep of life
as each day rushes at us with its demands.
Open our eyes to your presence, God of love,
that we may lean on you –
for you uphold all of creation
in tenderness and power. Amen.

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 this child 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 this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Commendation and Welcome

† Liturgist: *Members of the household of God, I commend Joshua Wayne to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.*

† People: **We give thanks for all that God has already given you, Joshua Wayne, 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.

A lesson from the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 17:22-31..(pew Bible, page 902)

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 Chris 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: Design Theory.....Chris Allen

† Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39.....No. 887

† 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 ChurchErin Racine

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: This Joyful Eastertide William H. Harris
This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain: Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison, our faith had been in vain:
But now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number. (Refrain)

Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus cross'd the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. (Refrain)

† DoxologyNo. 94
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 140: Great is Thy Faithfulness.....Faithfulness

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: Grant Us, O God Thomas Tallis

Voluntary: Prelude in B minor BWV 544J.S. Bach

*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

Music Participants: The Sanctuary Choir. Associate Minister of Music, Andrew Risinger, is directing. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps, is assisting at the organ.

Hymnic notes: The processional contrasts images and descriptions of God: the everlasting King, and the enduring, gentle, caring, protecting parent. LAUDA ANIMA (Praise, my soul), is one of the most widely sung, inviting and enduring tunes of the vast Victorian repertory. The recessional is a hymn of praise to an unchanging God in a changing world. Its central theme is from Lamentations 3:23. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.' (Hymnic notes by Carlton Young)

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding of Kelly Caudle and Richard Joyner.

Joshua Wayne Lowe,
son of Matthew Lowe and Jana Lowe,
is presented for baptism this morning.

Bailey Paige Samples,
daughter of Zackary Otis Samples and Shaun McGuinn Samples,
will be presented for baptism in the 11 o'clock service today.

A rose on the Communion table is to celebrate the birth of Wright Hastings Goodridge to David and Heather Woodruff Goodridge on May 10, 2017.

A rose on the Communion table is to celebrate the birth of Kirby Grace Lemmons to Kate and Sully Lemmons on May 12, 2017. She is welcomed by her big sister Livie, her Aunt Laura Davis, and her grandparents Ann and Kirby Davis.

May 21, 2017
Preaching: Chris Allen
"Design Theory"

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

WEST END
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*The Loving Light of Christ
Connecting, Transforming*



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