

GATHERING

Voluntary

The Shepherds.....Olivier Messiaen
Es Ist Ein Ros' Entsprungen.....Johannes Brahms
Bring a Torch Jeannette Isabella.....Christopher Uehlein
Noel Huron
Toccatà on "Il Est Ne, Le Divin Enfant".....Denis Bedard
In the Bleak Midwinter.....Allen Orton Gibbs
Improvisation on "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen".....Myron Roberts
In dulci jubilo BWV 751.....J. S. Bach

Introit: Of the Father's Love Begotten Plainsong

† Processional Hymn No. 234: O Come, All Ye Faithful.....Adeste Fideles

† Greeting.....Brandon Baxter

Liturgist: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;*

People: **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.**

Liturgist: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;*

People: **and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

Liturgist: *Of the increase of his government
and of peace there will be no end.*

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**O God, you show us your love
through the gift of your life among us.**

**We hear the familiar story of Christmas,
but we often fail to allow
its mercy and grace to change our lives.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and fill our hearts with your love.
This we ask in Christ's name.**

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: *Hear the joyous news of Christmas: God has come to us in
Christ Jesus, who gave himself for us while we were yet
sinners. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!*

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

† 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.)

† An Act of Praise

Antiphon (Choir and Congregation)



Choir: *Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Anthem: A Child of the Snows.....Christina Whitten Thomas

There is heard a hymn when the panes are dim, and never before or
again, when the nights are strong with a darkness long, and the dark
is alive with rain. Never we know but in sleet and in snow the place
where the great fires are, that the midst of the earth is a raging mirth
and the heart of the earth is a star. And at night we win to the ancient
inn where the child in the frost is furled, we follow the feet where all
souls meet at the inn at the end of the world. The gods lie dead where
the leaves lie red, for the flame of the sun is flown, the gods lie cold
where the leaves lie gold, and a Child comes forth alone.

(G. K. Chesterton)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Advent Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*)

**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 the Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 (pew Bible, page 832)
(The people will stand as the Gospel is brought into their midst.)

† Response to the Scripture:

Liturgist: *Great is the mystery of the incarnation.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

† Hymn No. 218: It Came upon the Midnight Clear.....Carol

Communion Meditation: The Christmas Gift.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed.....No. 880

The Offering.....Erin Racine

Offertory: Gesu BambinoPietro Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night
Was born the Child the Christmas Rose, The King of Love and Light
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced
And at His blessed birth the stars Their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its king of Love and Light
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, The grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell

O come let us adore him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Ah! O come let us adore Him
Ah! Adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
O come, O come
O come let us adore Him
Let us adore Him
Christ, the Lord.

† Presentation of the Offering and the Elements

† Doxology No. 95

† Thanksgiving

Celebrant: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: *Lift up your hearts.*

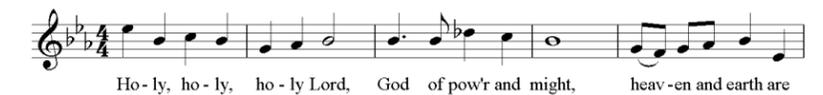
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

† Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

† Sanctus and Benedictus (*Choir and Congregation*)



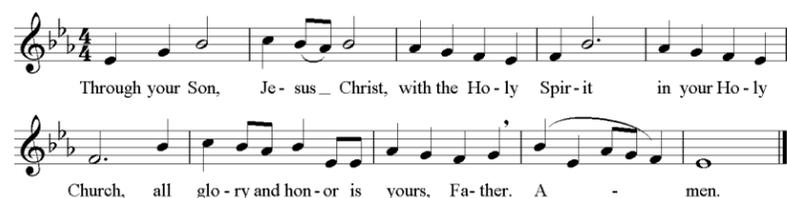
Prayer of Remembrance

People:



Prayer of Consecration

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.**

The Breaking of Bread and Taking of the Cup

After O Holy Night, the congregation is invited to sing the following hymns: 217, 230, 216, and 239.

† Prayer after Receiving

Celebrant: *You have given yourself to us, Lord.*
People: **Now we give ourselves for others.**
Celebrant: *Your love has made us a new people;*
People: **as a people of love we will serve you with joy.**
Celebrant: *Your glory has filled our hearts;*
People: **help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.**

† Changing of the Chancel Paraments

We symbolize the transition from Advent expectation to Christmas celebration by changing the parament colors from purple to white.

† Lighting of the Christ Candle

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 246: Joy to the World..... Antioch

† Dismissal with Blessing

Celebrant: *Go forth in peace.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
People: **Amen.**

† Choral Response: Seven Fold Amen Peter Lutkin

Voluntary: Toccata on Joy to the World Craig Phillips

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

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The altar and pulpit flowers are given today to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Chris Tibbott by Mark O'Bryan and Monty Smith.

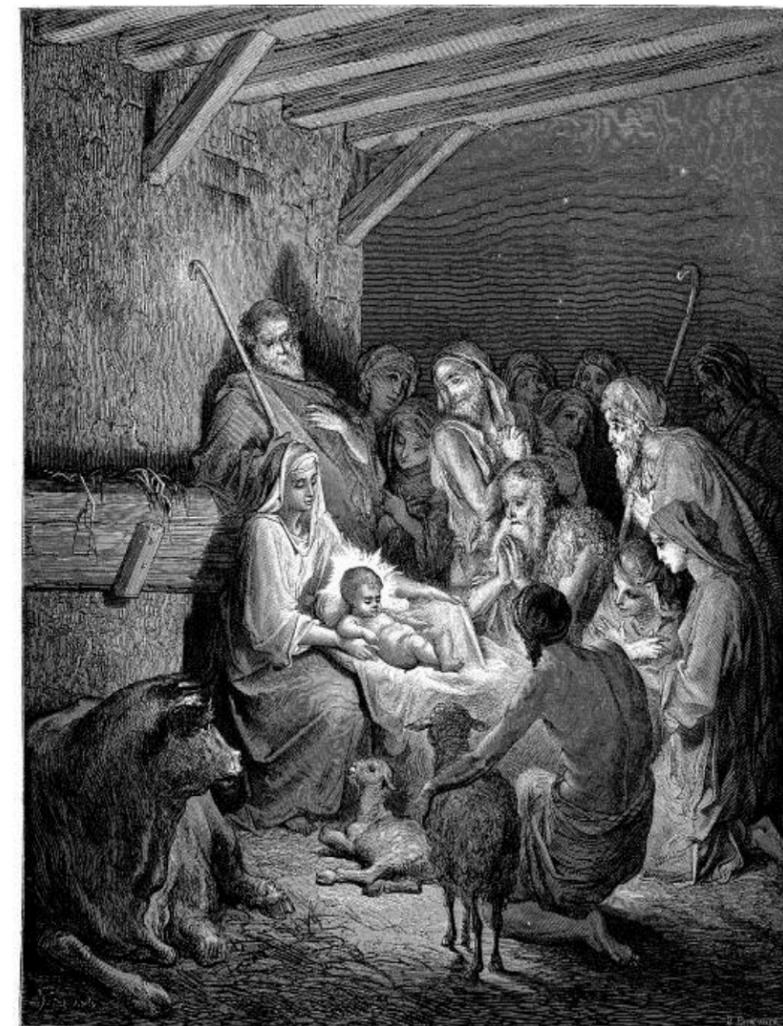
The texts used in this evening's Communion service are used in many Christian traditions. They help us to see our relationship to those around us as an expression of our relationship to God. This is best expressed as we confess our sins, are assured of God's forgiveness, and then express that forgiveness with those around us in the "Passing of the Peace." The Peace is an act of reconciliation and blessing, based on New Testament Christian practice. When we are reminded of God's love and mercy, our response is to share that gift with others. United in this forgiveness, we come to the table as a forgiven and reconciled community in love and charity with each other.

Tonight's offerings will go to purchase furnishings for the Village at Glencliff's 20 micro homes, an Open Table Nashville Community, that will provide a dignified, loving, and hospitable bridge housing community for our most vulnerable friends experiencing homelessness in Nashville who have medical vulnerabilities and are not able to access permanent housing immediately.

Music Participants: Members of the Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps, is director and assisting at the organ. Associate Minister of Music, Andrew Risinger, is organist/accompanist. Music Associate, Allison Williams, is organist. Patrick Dunnevant, baritone. Ben Troxler, bass.

WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord. ~Luke 2:11*

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2017

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org