



Welcome!

It is a joy to greet each of you in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. If you are our guest at this service, we bid you an especially warm welcome. If you are seeking a church home, you are invited to visit us on Sundays for worship at either 8:45 AM or 11:00 AM. On December 29, we will have one service at 11:00 AM.

Thank you worship leaders!

Thank you to all the children, youth, and adults who are serving as worship leaders tonight. We appreciate all of their hard work and them blessing us with their gifts.

Thank you to the Children's Council, staff, and members of the Drama Ministry who help behind the scenes to bring this service to life!

Today's Musicians: Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Katherine Dinkins Graham by Mark A. O'Bryan and William Montgomery Smith.

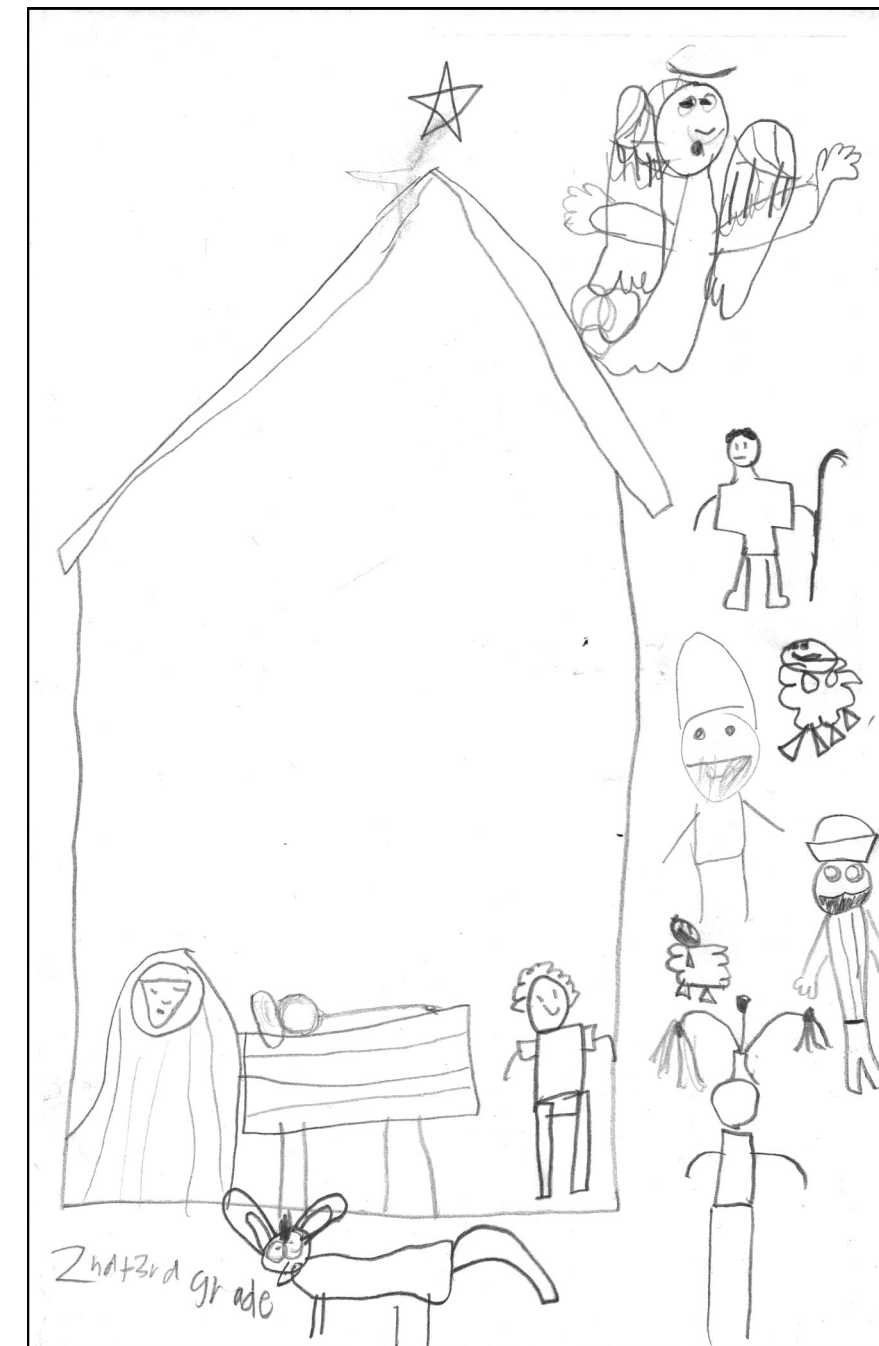
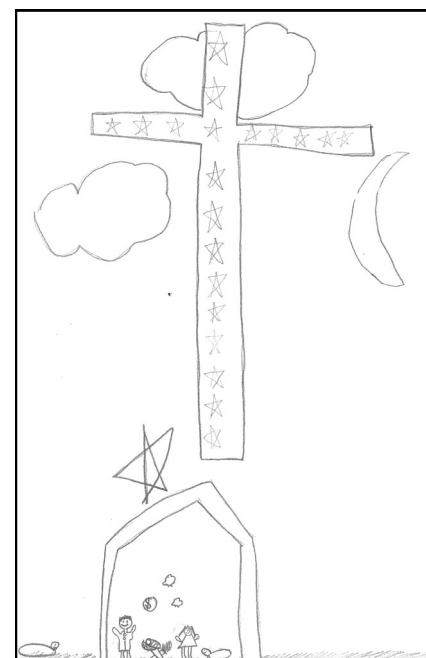
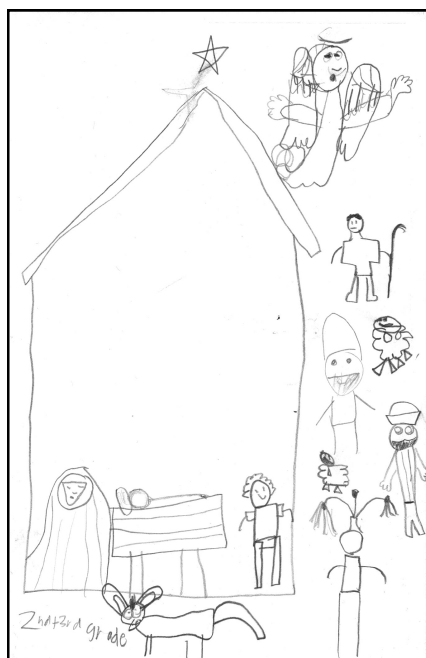
Special Communion Offering

Our Communion Offering tonight will go to support the missions ministry of West End United Methodist Church. It will be split between the adult mission trip to Guatemala, youth missions, and local children's mission opportunities. We invite you to give generously!

Bulletin Covers

Thanks to our children for their imagination and creativity which gave us the images on the bulletin covers this evening! Our bulletin covers were drawn for this service by children in our Sunday School classes. If you would like to see the other images, they are on the back of this bulletin.

Cover Artwork from Children's Sunday School Classes



Family Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2019



**Family Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2019
4:00 PM**

GATHERING

Prelude
“The Holly and the Ivy” Herbert Sumsion
Offertoire sure Deux Noels Alexandre Guilmant

A Word of Welcome Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon

The Light of Christ Enters

* Opening Hymn: No. 234 O Come All Ye Faithful, v. 1-3, 6 Adeste Fidelis

* Greeting: Zach Fannesbeck
Liturgist: Tonight we are excited.
People: **Bless us with wonder!**
Liturgist: Tonight we are expectant.
People: **Bless us with gladness!**
Liturgist: Tonight we are on tiptoe.
People: **Bless us with new birth.**
All: **Let us remember why this night is a holy night!**

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (in unison)
Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and turn away from our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

* Silent Confession

* Words of Assurance Samuel Wilson
Liturgist: Hear the good news! Christ is come! In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!
People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**
All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

* Passing of the Peace
Liturgist: As a forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love. The peace of Christ be with you!
People: And also with you.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Readings:
Luke 1:28-35, 38 Elijah Bakker
Luke 2:1-7 Henry Sheaffer
Luke 2:8-16 Noah Phelps
Matthew 2:1-2, 7-12 Sam Powell

Children of all ages are invited to come gather at the front of the Sanctuary to hear the story of Jesus’ birth read from Isaiah, Luke, and Matthew. Gather at the star during the singing of the First Noel and follow it around the Sanctuary to the chancel area.

* Hymn No. 245: The First NoelTraditional English Carol

Children’s Sermon Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon

Anthem: Away in a Manger.Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

* Hymn No. 240: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

(Children will return to their seats during the singing of the hymn.)

*Affirmation of Faith Harper Barnes
(Written by Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade, and Confirmation Classes in 2018)

**We believe God, our Creator, saves us, shepherds us, loves us, invites us to love, and lives within us all.
We believe Jesus is God’s Son who teaches us, leads us with kindness, and sacrificed himself for us.
We believe Jesus came to live on earth to save our lives and to spread the joyful news of God and God’s Spirit.
We believe being part of the church means friends, choir, the Lord’s Prayer, and fun crafts in Sunday School.
We believe we should always speak and act kindly to everyone because God said so.**

Offertory: The Holy Boy John Ireland

* Doxology No. 94

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord our God is with us. Lift your hearts and voices high. Let us give thanks to the Lord everywhere and at all times:

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

Leader: God, all glory be to you at this blessed Christmas time, for the gift of your own Son, born a poor child, peasant King. For the love you sent us, for the life he shared with us, for the sacrifice he made, Lord of lords, King of kings.

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

Leaders: On the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took the bread, blessed it and broke it as he said, “Take eat, this is my body.” After the supper he took the cup, gave you thanks, and giving it said, “Drink this cup, it is my life, poured out for your and everyone.”

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

Leader: When we eat this holy bread, when we drink this holy cup, we his presence sense anew, and his victory await. We remember and proclaim what your Son has done for us, in his life and in his death, as he rises and ascends.

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

Leader: Now accept our sacrifice as we surrender ourselves. Send your Holy Spirit down on us here and on our gifts. Help us through this bread and wine know the presence of our Christ. Make us one with him today and with humankind, we pray.

All (sung): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

Breaking The Bread

Giving The Bread and Cup
(Communion tonight will be served by intinction. Please hold out your hands to receive the bread, which you will then dip into the cup, receiving the elements together.)
The congregation is invited to sing the following hymns: 230, 218, 239

* The Prayer After Receiving (in unison)

**Eternal God,
We give you thanks for this holy mystery
In which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
In the strength of your Spirit,
To give ourselves to others,
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

* Closing Hymn No. 246: Joy to the World.....Antioch

Benediction Rev. Maggie Jarrell

Postlude William Thomas Best
Christmas Postlude in “Let the Praise be Loud and High”

* *The congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*