

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, 2020

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org

GATHERING

Welcome.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

Voluntary: Silent Night.....Stille Nacht, arr Ingram
Prelude on "This Endris Nyght"Healey Willan

Introit: Of the Father's Love Begotten.....Plainsong

† Hymn No. 234: O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1, 3, & 6).....Adeste Fideles
**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

† Greeting.....Brandon Baxter

Liturgist: *We have perceived a promise of peace.*

People: **We have recognized a rumor of justice.**

Liturgist: *We have witnessed a word of hope.*

People: **We have heard a hint of love.**

Liturgist: *We have been greeted with good news: Jesus Christ is born!*

People: **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace!**

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**O Jesus, who never tires of loving us,
if ever there were a people who need your presence, it is us.
If ever there were a place where hope needed to be born, it is here.
The work of your hands surrounds us,
and the miracle of your coming confronts us
but we remain weary of heart.**

**We hear songs of angels but cannot muster the joy to sing,
You call us, like shepherds of old, to your manger to worship but
our minds wander.**

**O Jesus, intervene in our history once more.
Forgive our complacency.**

**Come, be born in our hearts anew,
that your love might illumine our lives,
that your people might gather at your manger,
and that your name might be exalted in all the earth. Amen.**

† 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!**

All: **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.**

An Act of Praise: Canticle No. 82.....Gloria in Excelsis

Anthem: I Sing the BirthC. Hubert Parry

I sing the birth was born tonight, the Author both of life and
light: the angels so did sound it; And like the ravished shepherds
said, Who saw the light and were afraid, yet searched, and true they
found it. The Son of God, th'eternal King, that did us all salvation
bring, and freed the world from danger, he whom the whole world
could not take, the Lord which heav'n and earth did make, was now
laid in a manger. What comfort by Him do we win, who made
Himself the price of sin, to make us heirs of glory! To see this Babe,
all innocence, a martyr born in our defense--Can man forget this
story? (Ben Johnson)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*)

**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: Luke 2:1-20.....Lily Barker, Harper Barnes,
Zach Fannesbeck, Wilson Rutterer,
and Harrison Wilson

Response to the Scripture:

Liturgist: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Children's Moment

Communion Meditation: Abiding in the Fields.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

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

The Offering.....Erin Racine

Offertory: Mary's Magnificat.....Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing, sweetly a maiden sings, ever wakeful, ever
wistful, watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.
My soul doth magnify the Lord; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God
my savior. Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings: 'I will love
you, I will serve you, may my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of
kings.'



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...

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... 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 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

Hymn after Communion No. 239: Silent Night Stille Nacht

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.

† Lighting of the Christ Candle

† 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: Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella.....arr. Keith Chapman

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

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The altar flowers are given to glory of God and in memory of Rev. Robert McIntyre by Mark A. O'Bryan and William Montgomery Smith.

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!

Note: activities at the church are on a modified schedule as we practice social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. Please visit westendumc.org for the latest news and updates as we continue our ministry.

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The Call the Worship is adapted from a resource by Cheryl Lawrie on the blog, "Hold This Space." The Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer by Catherine Erskine Boileau.

Cover Art: "Winter Hard as Iron" by Ray Sells.

Media Team: Chase Bencin and Mac Pirkle

Music Participants: Chamber Choir. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps. Associate Minister of Music, Andrew Risinger.

Today's Music: In the small, quiet town of Oberndorf, Austria, on a snowy Christmas Eve, a priest and an organist wrote what is now the most beloved Christmas carol world-wide. Stories abound as to the exact circumstances of the origin of the hymn, and there are societies dedicated to the task of protecting the authentic hymn text and story. Paul Westermeyer writes, "Partly because of its popularity, STILLE NACHT can easily point to itself rather than beyond itself to the Word" (Let the People Sing, 153). It is important, then, to not simply listen to what we might consider a quaint, nostalgia-evoking carol, but to sing out the depth of these words. For the "dawn of redeeming grace" is something far greater and grander than any song we could ever write.