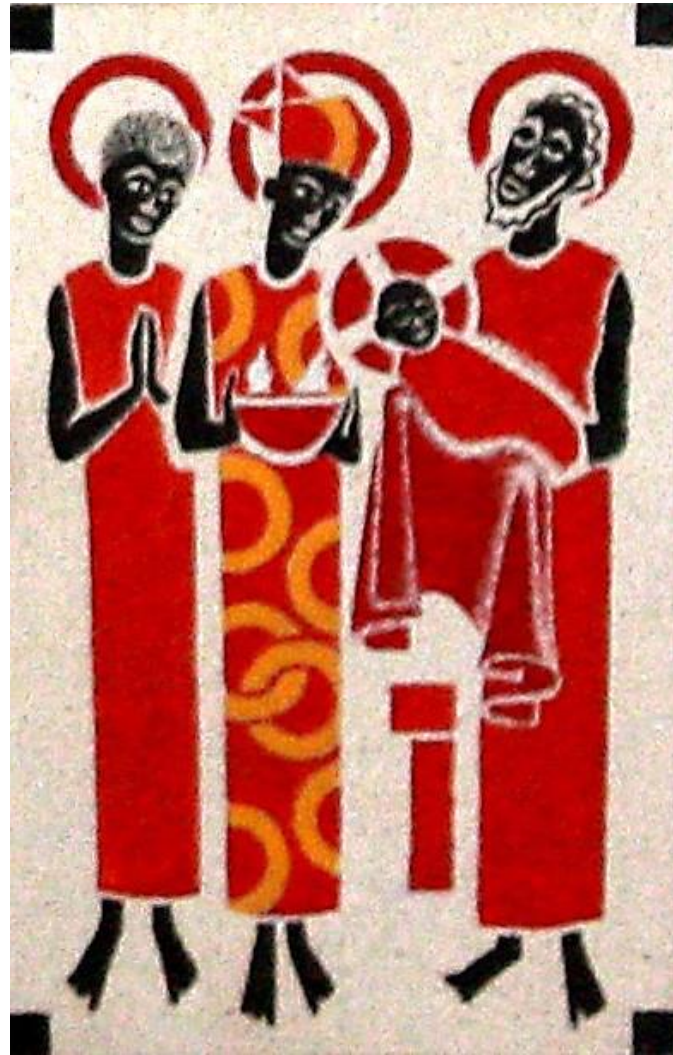


WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
December 27, 2020 at Eight Forty-five
First Sunday after Christmas Day

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org

GATHERING

Voluntary: I Wonder as I Wonder arr. John Ness Beck

Welcome Katie Minnis
Please take a moment to record your online attendance in the link provided in the comment section. First-time guests and other visitors 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: Today is Born our Savior Plainsong

† Opening Hymn No. 240: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

† Call to Worship Erin Racine

Liturgist: *When Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph,*

People: God was there.

Liturgist: *When Simeon held Jesus in his arms,*

People: God was there.

Liturgist: *When Anna recognized Jesus,*

People: God was there.

Liturgist: *This very morning,*

People: God is here.

Liturgist: *In the future we cannot see,*

People: God is there.

Liturgist: *Let us worship the God of the past, the present, and the future.*

People: Let us worship Emmanuel, God with us!

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

God of Hope,

in the waning of this difficult year

we confess that we have not always trusted in your goodness.

We have been swept up in our own troubles,

and we have not always been mindful of the needs of others.

We have allowed despair to take root in our lives

instead of cultivating compassion born of faith

and joy born of hope.

Forgive us, Wonderful Counselor.

Remind us that you are ever-present,

always inviting us to follow you.

Help us to learn from the past.

Open our hearts to those who are most vulnerable,

and guide us to be co-creators of a world

in which all people are valued and everyone has enough.

Amen.

† Silent Confession

† Words of Assurance

Liturgist: *Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. 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.

† Gloria Patri No. 71

**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.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination Julia Johnson

**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 Luke 2:22-40

Response to the Lesson

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Moment

Sermon: A Ritual of Release Katie Minnis

† Affirmation of Faith No. 883

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

Joys & Concerns of the Church Brandon Baxter

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: Gesu Bambino Pietro 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.

† Doxology.....No. 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

† Closing Hymn No. 251: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain).....Gloria

Voluntary: Postlude on Go Tell It on the MountainWilbur Held

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

*Livestream and video recording happen during our church services
and worship events.*

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The altar flowers are given today to the glory of God and in memory of Lucy
and Edward VanVoorhees, Kathleen Shacter and Reverend and Mrs. Willard
Blue by Ed VanVoorhees and Linda Lundin.



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 to Worship is adapted from a resource by Rev. Robert George, Karen George, and Judy Colby-George, in *Past Meets Future: A Blessing for Today* on the United Church of Christ website.

Cover Art: "Presentation in the Temple" by Father Georges Saget.

Media Team: Chase Bencin and Mac Pirkle

Music Participants: Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps. Ben Troxler, baritone.

Today's Music: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," by Charles Wesley, was written within a year of Wesley's conversion. Thus, as Albert Bailey writes, "the inspiration of his newly-made contact with God was still fresh" (*The Gospel in Hymns*, 100). Rather than simply telling the nativity story, Wesley pours theological truths into this text. The first verse tells the story of the angels proclaiming Christ's birth, and the second and third verses go on to make it very clear why the angels sang. Simply by describing Christ, Wesley tells us the entire Gospel story. We are told of Christ's nature, his birth and incarnation, his ministry, and his salvific purpose. The *Psalter Hymnal Handbook* describes the hymn like this: "A curious mixture of exclamation, exhortation, and theological reflection. The focus shifts rapidly from angels, to us, to nations. The text's strength may not lie so much in any orderly sequence of thought but in its use of Scripture to teach its theology. That teaching surely produces in us a childlike response of faith; we too can sing 'Glory to the newborn King!'"

West End United Methodist Church

PASTORAL STAFF

Members of West End United Methodist ChurchMinisters
Carol Cavin-DillonSenior Pastor
Erin Racine..... Pastor of Hospitality & Congregational Care
Brandon Baxter.....Pastor & Coordinator of Spiritual Formation
Maggie Jarrell.....Pastor of Children & Family Ministries
Stacey Harwell-Dye.....Pastor of Missions & Outreach
Nancy Parker.....Pastor of Young Adults & Vandy Wesley
Katie Minnis Pastoral Fellow

PROGRAM STAFF

Matthew Phelps Minister of Music
Andrew Risinger..... Associate Minister of Music
Emily C. Robbins Minister of Youth
Shelley Kuhlmeyer Communications Director

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sandra Durbin.....Church Financial Officer
Melanie Paulson.....Director, HR
Jim Raver.....Property Operations Manager
Cindy Siemer..... Senior Administrative Assistant & Membership
Julie Catterton.....Assistant to Senior Pastor
Karina Gurgendize.....Childcare Coordinator
Laural Hemenway.....Receptionist and Administrative Assistant
Ken NelsonReceptionist and Administrative Assistant
Natalee Nave..... Administrative Assistant with Music and Worship
Chase Bencin.....Media Coordinator
Bob Hilton.....Building Engineer
Richard Thomas.....Custodian

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES

Candyee Goode.....Executive Director
Julie Miller Assistant Preschool Director

INTERNS

Scott BronsMusic
Christopher HarrisYouth
Sarah McCain.....Congregational Care

To reach a member of the staff by email, use their first initial with their last name at westendumc.org, except for Bob Hilton.