

WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Service for the Longest Night
December 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome.....Erin Racine

Introit: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 1).....Veni Emmanuel
Brandon Baxter, *soloist*

† Processional Hymn No. 211.....Veni Emmanuel
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 4, 6, 7)

**O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits with thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Refrain

**O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.**

Refrain

† Call to Worship.....Sarah McCain

Liturgist: *When we find ourselves in darkness,*

People: **may we also find a blessing.**

Liturgist: *When we find ourselves in shadows,*

People: **may we also find a welcome.**

Liturgist: *On this longest night of the year,*

People: **may we be encircled by love.**

Liturgist: *On this longest night of the year,*

People: **let us worship the One who calls us by name.**

Lighting the Advent Candles.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:.....St. Louis

O Little Town of Bethlehem, verse 4 (*all sing*)

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray.**

**Cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell.**

**O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Silent Confession

Refrain (*all sing*)

**O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

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.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Litany of Darkness and Light.....Sarah McCain and Katie Minnis
Scripture excerpts from Genesis 1:1-2, Exodus 20:21, Isaiah 9:2,6

Words of Hope: Finding Light in Darkness.....Frances Merritt

The Great 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.**

Celebrant: Holy God, in this season...and join their unending hymn.

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Holy is your name...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Send the power of your Holy Spirit...all honor and glory
is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

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.**

Breaking the Bread and time for Prayer, Candle Lighting
and Anointing with Oil

Prayer

SENDING FORTH

† Hymn: In the Still of the Winter.....
.Foundation

1. In the still of the win - ter, the dark of the year,
2. From the si - lence of eve - ning, from shad - ow and sleep,
3. I am here in the stars, in the dark of the night.

there's a watch - ing and wait - ing for God to come near.
comes a nu - mi - nous star like a voice from the deep.
I am al - ways with - in you, and I am the light.

My heart, like a trav - eler who's lost in the night,
How long must I wan - der, how far must I roam?
I am who I am, sings the God of my soul.

feels a yearn - ing for com - fort, and long - ing for light.
I am here, I am with you, and I'll lead you home.
In your wait - ing and hope I am mak - ing you whole.

(Higher Key: UM Hymnal, no. 529)

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MUSIC: Early USA melody; harm. from *Tabor*, 1866.

FOUNDATION
12.12.11.12

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† Benediction

Postlude

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Brandon Baxter, *Pastor of Spiritual Formation*
Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon, *Senior Pastor*
Sarah McCain, *Ministry Intern for Congregational Care*
Rev. Frances Merritt, *Member of West End UMC and Licensed Local Pastor*
Katie Minnis, *Pastoral Fellow*
Rev. Erin Racine, *Pastor of Congregational Care and Hospitality*
Andrew Risinger, *Associate Minister of Music and Organist*

The Call to Worship is adapted from the poem by Jan Richardson in her book, *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*.
The Communion service is adapted from an Advent liturgy by Rev. Kathy Noble.

As You Join Us In Communion

This evening, you are invited to come forward to receive the elements by hand from servers. Open your hands to receive the elements, and then make your way to the communion rail where you may either kneel or stand. Please remove one side of your mask, partake of the elements, and then secure your mask. You are welcome to remain standing or kneeling in prayer as long as you wish.

If you are not comfortable receiving communion elements at the rail or simply prefer to receive in your seat, a pastor will bring elements to you. Those served in their seats will receive prepackaged communion wafers and cups. As you see the pastor pass by, simply raise your hand or catch their eye so they know you need to be served. ALL of our elements, both served at the rail and served in the pews, are gluten free.



Use this QR code and your phone's camera to submit prayer requests online and request that a candle be lit on your behalf in the Sanctuary during the service.

Family Christmas Eve Service, December 24 at 4p.m.

Sanctuary and Livestream

All ages of children and families are invited to participate in our Family Christmas Eve worship on December 24 at 4:00p.m. We are excited to have our children lead us in worship and participate in bringing the story of Jesus' birth to life for us on Christmas Eve.

Traditional Christmas Eve Service, December 24 at 10:30p.m.

Sanctuary and Livestream

With the sacrament of Holy Communion and the music of the choirs, this traditional service is one of the highlights of our West End worship, celebrating Christ's birth as a gift for all time. An organ prelude of Christmas music begins at 10:00p.m. and the service begins at 10:30p.m.

One Service Sunday, December 26

On Sunday, December 26, we will have one worship service at 10a.m. in the Sanctuary and on Livestream. There will be no Sunday School this day.



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.

**An Excerpt from
"How the Light Comes"
by Jan Richardson**

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.

What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.

That it travels across
an astounding expanse
to reach us.

That it loves
searching out
what is hidden,
what is lost,
what is forgotten,
or in peril,
or in pain.

And so,
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.