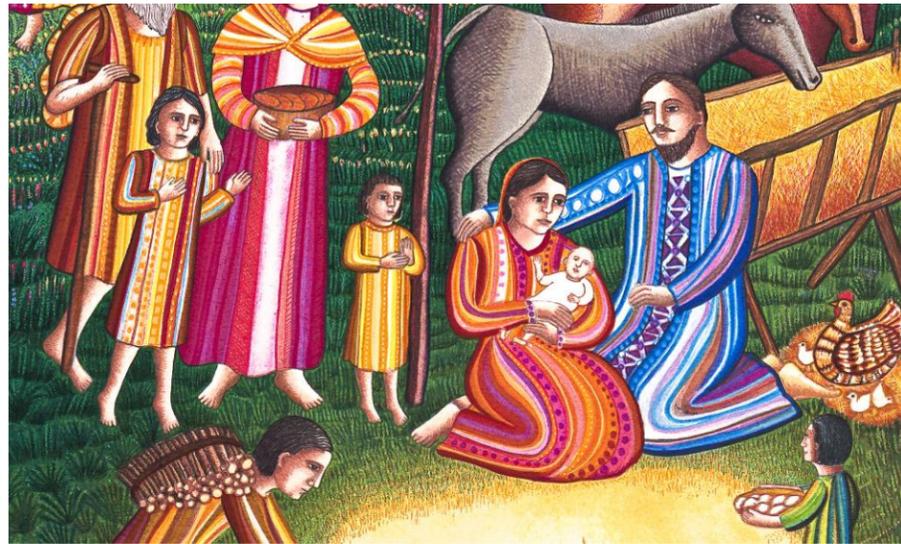


# WEST END

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2021 at Four o'clock

2200 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500  
www.westendumc.org

### GATHERING

#### Voluntary

Prelude on Greensleeves.....Vaughan Williams, arr. Roper  
Variations on Adeste Fidelis.....Raynor Taylor

#### The Light of Christ Enters

A Word of Welcome.....Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Opening Hymn No. 234: O Come, All Ye Faithful..... Adeste Fideles  
(vv. 1-3)

† Greeting.....Harrison Wilson

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*)  
**Lord of Christmas Peace,**  
**we have done wrong.**  
**We have tarnished the gift you gave freely.**  
**We have buried you so deeply in our hearts the world doesn't see you.**  
**We have not followed Christ,**  
**we have ignored your teachings,**  
**we have lived lives of apathy against your love,**  
**we have built fences and fortresses to push people away,**  
**and we have silenced the screams of those in need.**  
**Forgive us, we pray.**  
**Free us from our sin.**  
**Free us from our captivity.**  
**Free us to a life lived in joy through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

† Words of Assurance

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

Lesson from the Gospel: Luke 2:1-20.....Henry Howerton &  
Eva Grace Woodall

Response to the Lesson

Liturgist: *The Word of God for the people of God.*  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn No. 245: The First Noel.....Traditional English Carol

*Children of all ages are invited to come gather at the front of the Sanctuary for the "star parade" and the children's sermon. Gather at the star during the singing of the First Noel and follow it around the Sanctuary and back to the chancel area.*

Children's Sermon.....Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon

Hymn No. 217: Away in a Manger .....Away in a Manger  
(*Children will return to their seats during the singing of the hymn.*)

† Affirmation of Faith: .....Rev. Nancy Parker  
(*Written by children's Sunday school 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,**  
**and 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: He is Born ..... Ray Charles

† 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!**

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.**

Leader: *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 you 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 to 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 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 of the Bread and Taking of the Cup

*The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the following hymns during communion: 230, 218, & 239.*

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**

- † Recessional Hymn No. 246: Joy to the World.....Antioch
- Benediction.....Rev. Maggie Jarrell
- Voluntary: Noel no. 10 (Grand Jeu et Duo).....Louis-Claude Daquin

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

+++

The Christmas Eve altar flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Carolyn Montgomery Smith and Emma Jean Ashton O'Bryan by Monty Smith and Mark O'Bryan.

*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 identity, race, sexual orientation, economic or family status, ethnicity, or mental or physical ability. We believe God loves everyone unconditionally!*

Cover Art: "Nativity" by John August Swanson.

Music Participants: Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps is organist/pianist. Colleen Phelps is soloist.

**WORSHIP INFORMATION ONLINE**

Use this QR code and your phone's camera to access today's worship information online.



**AS YOU JOIN US IN COMMUNION**

This service, we are pleased to offer the option to receive communion at the altar rail. If you choose to be served at the rail, you will receive the elements by hand from volunteer servers. As you are directed, please make your way to the communion rail by way of the center aisle. Kneel, remove one side of your mask, and open your hands. You will be given a small piece of bread and then a small cup of juice. After you have received, place your empty cup on the communion rail and secure your mask. You may stay kneeling for prayer as long as you wish, and then return to your seat by way of the outside aisle.

If you are not comfortable receiving communion elements at the rail or simply prefer to receive in your seat, pastors will bring elements to you. Those served in their seats will receive prepackaged communion wafers and cups. As you see the pastors pass by, simply raise your hand or catch their eye so they know you need to be served. After you have received, you may discard your cups in the small plastic bins at the end of each pew. ALL of our elements, both served at the rail and served in the pews, are gluten free.

**One Service Sunday, December 26**

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

**New Year's Eve Taize Service - DECEMBER 31, 2021 · 5:00 PM**

Experience the beauty and peace of Taizé worship around the labyrinth in the 4th Story Theater this December 31. Before you go to "party hearty" or have a quiet evening at home, come to let go of the burdens of 2021 and enter 2022 with renewed hope and peace. Opportunity is offered for individual prayers and anointing for healing. The service begins at 5 pm. The Taizé Team will welcome you with beautiful music and warm smiles.

**DO YOU RECEIVE OUR FRIDAY EMAIL?**

One of the ways to find out what's going on in our church is to sign up for our Friday eNews at [westendumc.org/enews](http://westendumc.org/enews).

**2021 Year-End Contributions**

There are several ways you can give. Log on to [westendumc.org/give](http://westendumc.org/give) to make a contribution online, and of course, you can always drop a check in the offering plate or in the mail. If it is delivered by hand or postmarked by December 31, you can include that as a contribution on your tax return for 2021. *The church office will be open until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 30* if you wish to bring your gift by in person. Some people choose to give the church appreciated securities as a means of avoiding personal capital gains tax, and making a contribution to their church at the same time. To make a contribution of stock, contact Cindy Siemer at [csiemer@westendumc.org](mailto:csiemer@westendumc.org) or 615.321.8500.

**WAYS TO GIVE**

- Give online at [westendumc.org/give](http://westendumc.org/give). Here you can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift.
- Text To Give. Text "Give" to 615-697-4010, and the prompts will help you set up from there. Once registered, you can use this option easily going forward.