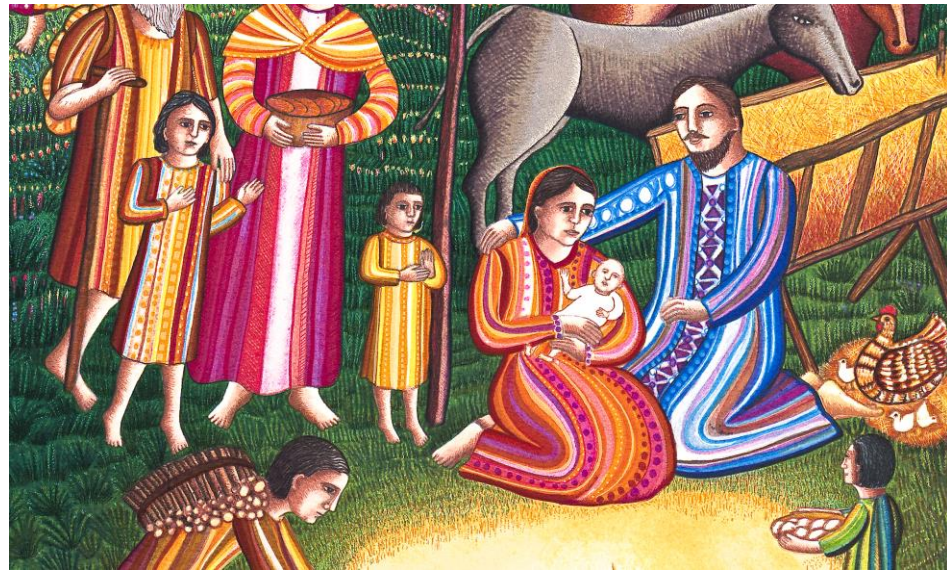


WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



GATHERING

Voluntary

- Noel no. 10 (Grand Jeu et Duo).....Louis-Claude Daquin
- Prelude on In dulci jubilo.....Paul Manz
- Prelude on "Greensleeves".....Vaughan Williams, arr. Roper
- Variations on "Adeste Fideles".....Raynor Taylor
- In dulci jubilo.....Settings by J. S. Bach & Marcel Dupré
- Prelude on "Gevaert".....Raymond Haan
- Variations on the Polish Carol *Infant Holy*.....Alexandre Guilmant
- In the Bleak Midwinter.....Allen Orton Gibbs
- In dulci jubilo, BWV 751.....J. S. Bach

Welcome.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

Introit: Torches, Torches John Joubert

† Processional Hymn No. 234: O Come, All Ye Faithful.....Adeste Fideles

† Greeting.....Brandon Baxter

Liturgist: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;*

People: **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.**

Liturgist: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;*

People: **and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

Liturgist: *Of the increase of his government
and of peace there will be no end.*

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**O God, you show us your love
through the gift of your life among us.**

**We hear the familiar story of Christmas,
but we often fail to allow
its mercy and grace to change our lives.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and fill our hearts with your love.
This we ask in Christ's name.**

† 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

Antiphon (Choir and Congregation)



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo-ple on earth.

Choir: *Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Choir: *With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

All: **(Antiphon)**

Anthem: Sussex Carol.....David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should we on earth be sad since our redeemer made us glad.
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?
When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
Angels and all with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen!

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.....(pew Bible, page 832)

† Response to the Scripture:

Liturgist: *Great is the mystery of the incarnation.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Communion Meditation: O Holy Night.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

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

The Offering.....Erin Racine

Offertory: Constant Christmas.....Amy Beach

The sky can still remember the earliest Christmas morn, when in the cold
December the Savior Christ was born. And still in darkness clouded and still in
noonday light it feels its far depth crowded with angels fair and bright. No star
unfolds its glory, no trumpet wind is blown but tells the Christmas story in
music of its own. No eager strife of mortals in busy field or town but sees the
opened portals through which the Christ comes down. O never failing
splendor! O never silent song! Still keeps the green earth tender, still keeps the
gray earth strong. Still keep the brave earth dreaming of deeds that shall be
done. While children's lives come streaming like sunbeams from the sun. O
angels sweet and splendid throng in our hearts and sing the wonders which
attended the coming of the King. Till we, too, boldly pressing where once the
shepherds trod climb Bethlehem's hill of blessing and find the Son of God.
(Phillips Brooks)

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2021 at Ten thirty

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org

† 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!**

† 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.**

† Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

† Sanctus and Benedictus (*Choir and Congregation*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
ful of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Remembrance

People:

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

Prayer of Consecration

People:

Through your Son, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in your Ho - ly
Church, all glo - ry and hon - or is yours, Fa - ther. A - men.

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

After "O Holy Night," the congregation is invited to sing the following hymns: 217, 230, 216, and 239.

† 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.**

† Changing of the Chancel Paraments and Lighting of the Christ Candle

We symbolize the transition from Advent expectation to Christmas celebration by changing the parament colors from blue to white.

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional 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: Carillon de Westminster.....Louis Vierne

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

*The postlude is the final Alleluia of our worship.
All are invited to remain for a time of joyful prayer.*

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

The service music printed in the order of worship is by Sally Ahner ©1983. Used with permission.

The texts used in this evening's Communion service are used in many Christian traditions. They help us to see our relationship to those around us as an expression of our relationship to God. This is best expressed as we confess our sins, are assured of God's forgiveness, and then express that forgiveness with those around us in the "Passing of the Peace." The Peace is an act of reconciliation and blessing, based on New Testament Christian practice. When we are reminded of God's love and mercy, our response is to share that gift with others. United in this forgiveness, we come to the table as a forgiven and reconciled community in love and charity with each other.

Cover Art: "Nativity" by John August Swanson.

Music Participants: Members of the Chancel and Sanctuary Choir. Matthew Phelps is organist-director. Andrew Risinger is organist/accompanist. Sarah Dunnevant and Patrick Dunnevant are soloists for "Constant Christmas." Ben Troxler and Hollie Dueker are soloists for "O Holy Night."



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.

2021 Year-End Contributions

There are several ways you can give. Log on to 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 or 615.321.8500.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Give online at 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.