

GATHERING

Voluntary: Two Preludes on “Creator of the Stars of Night”

Improvisation Matthew Phelps

Chorale Prelude on “Praise to the Almighty God” BWV 602.. J. S. Bach

Welcome Carol Cavin-Dillon

Please take a moment to record your attendance.

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: Come Lord Jesus..... Martin How

† Processional Hymn: Valet Will Ich Dir Geben
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Voice



O Lord, how shall I meet You, and wel-come you a - right? Your Love caused your in - car - na - tion, Love set your peo - ple free; Your A glor - ious crown you give us, a trea - sure safe on high, That peo - ple long to greet You, my hope, my heart's de - light! O thirst for our sal va tion pro - cured our lib - er - ty. O will not fail nor leave us as earth - ly rich - es fly. My kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast, To love be - yond all tell - ing, that led You to em - brace In heart shall bloom for - e - ver for You with prais - es new, And do in spir - it low - ly all that may please You best. love all loves ex - cel - ling our lost and fal - len race. from Your name shall ne - ver With - hold the ho - nor due.

† Call to Worship..... Nancy Parker

Liturgist: *We await a word of hope.*

People: **God lights a candle of joy in our hearts.**

Liturgist: *We wait together for a savior.*

People: **He will be Emmanuel, God with us.**

Liturgist: *Let us prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus!*

People: **Let us worship our long-expected Lord!**

Lighting the Advent Candle.....The England Family

Isaiah 11:1-6

Congregational Response.....People Look East, vs. 4

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Eternal God,

generation after generation

you prepared a way in our world for the coming of your son, and by your Spirit you still bring the joy of the gospel into our lives.

We confess that the pain and suffering of the world

often outweigh our faith that your grace can bring healing.

Open our hearts with the hope of the prophets,

that we might welcome the coming of Emmanuel.

May we rejoice in your salvation and in your holy name.

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 Ken Nelson, Ed Zinkiewicz and Derek Weber

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 the Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Response to the Lesson

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Moment

Sermon: The Love of Joseph..... Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Affirmation of Faith..... No. 883
A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

Joys & Concerns of the Church..... Stacey Harwell-Dye

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: O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort.....Johann W. Franck

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort; O let me ne’er in sorrow pine, my heart and soul, yea, all my being, O Jesus, trust alone in Thee. Thou Prince of Peace, thou pearl from heaven, true God, true man, my morning star! O come, thou precious sun most radiant, thy beams illumine my heart and soul. O Jesus, with thy advent quiet my restless soul and anxious mind. In true humility I welcome Thee, Jesus Christ, my joy divine. My thoughts, desires, and all my longings I dedicate, O Christ, to Thee. (W. Osterwald)

† Doxology.....No. 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 220:Regent Square
Angels from the Realms of Glory

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (refrain, all sing)
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Voluntary: Paean on *Divinum Mysterium*.....John Cook

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

† *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 loving memory of Carolyn Bass and George Harrison Cate, Jr. and Emmie Jackson and Hunter McDonald, Jr. by Cathy Cate Sullivan and Hunter McDonald, III.

A rose on the table celebrates the birth of Virginia Douglass Tucker who was born December 8th to Kara and Harrison Tucker. She is welcomed also by her grandparents, Sandra and Bill Earthman.



WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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!

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The Call to Worship is adapted from a resource by Carol Penner on her blog, *Leading in Worship*. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer by Kristin Emery Saldine in the book, *Preaching and Worshiping in Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*.

Cover Art: "Joseph and the Baby" by an unknown artist.

Music Participants: The Sanctuary Choir. Andrew Risinger is organist-director. Matthew Phelps is assisting at the organ.

Today's Music: Our processional hymn, "O Lord, How Shall I meet You" was written by the Lutheran pastor Paul Gerhardt and translated by Catherine Winkworth. The hymn shares its tune with the famous Palm Sunday hymn, "All Glory, Laud, and Honor."

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.

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.



WORSHIP INFORMATION ONLINE

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

ADVENT MISSIONS MARKET

It's the final Sunday of the Advent Missions Market. Visit Reed Hall to support these vendors and their causes.

ADVENT SPECIAL OFFERING // LUNCHES FOR HOPE PROGRAM

This year's Advent Offering will go to the Lunches for Hope Program in the Dassa-Zoume region of Benin, Africa to help provide a daily lunch to the 30 girls enrolled in the program. You can give online by marking the "Other" and writing in "Advent Special Offering" or by check with "Advent Special Offering" in the memo line.

SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT

Wednesday, December 21 // 6:30 p.m. // Sanctuary and Online - On December 21, at 6:30 p.m. West End will hold a Service of the Longest Night, both in-person and online. We will gather, physically and virtually, to hear words from Scripture, light candles, hear comforting music, receive Communion, and pray. Those joining us online will be able to submit prayer requests and someone in the Sanctuary will light candles on your behalf. Even if you are not experiencing a difficult season yourself, you are invited to attend and pray for those who are.

The word, "Immanuel," means "God with us." Our Immanuel is indeed with us, even in the midst of struggle. During West End's Service of the Longest Night, we will claim that promise for ourselves and our loved ones. We hope that you'll join us. For more info, contact Rev. Erin Racine at 615.321.8500 or eracine@westendumc.org.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Saturday, December 24 // 4 p.m. // Sanctuary and Online - All ages of children and families are invited to participate in our Family Christmas Eve Worship Service on December 24 at 4 p.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. Children, who wish to dress in costumes, should come to the 4th Story Theater between 3:15 and 3:45 p.m. to choose their costume. This service is lots of fun for all ages and we hope you will join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ!

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Saturday, December 24 // 10:30 p.m. // Sanctuary - With the sacrament of Holy Communion and 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 p.m. and the service begins at 10:30 p.m.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Join us for worship at 10 a.m. on December 25 and January 1. There will be no Sunday School and only one service on these days. There **will be** childcare for children ages 2 and under on December 25 but **no childcare** on January 1, and no children's church either day.

NEW YEAR'S EVE TAIZE SERVICE

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 2022 and enter 2023 with renewed hope and peace. Opportunity is offered for individual prayers and anointing for healing. The service begins at 6:30 pm. The Taizé Team will welcome you with beautiful music and warm smiles.

A COLLECTION OF CRECHES: A NATIVITIES DISPLAY

There are a just a few opportunities left to visit the 4th Story Theater and take a self-guided tour of the impressive array of nativities on display. Members of our West End UMC community have generously loaned their precious nativity sets for this popular installation.



ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
December 18, 2022 at Eight Forty-five
Fourth Sunday of Advent

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org