

GATHERING

Voluntary

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

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

The Light of Christ Enters

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

† Greeting.....Henry Howerton

Liturgist: *A light shining in the darkness....*

People: **What could it be?**

Liturgist: *The sound of angel's wings...*

People: **What could it mean?**

Liturgist: *A baby born in a stable...*

People: **Who could it be?**

All: **Come to Bethlehem and see.**

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

It's Christmas Eve again, God.

We're barely ready for it.

**So much to do to get ready – gifts to buy and wrap,
parties to attend, trees to trim, houses to decorate.**

We're in a whirlwind of activity.

**In the midst of the busyness, we sometimes miss what it is all
about – you coming to earth – Emmanuel – God-with-us.**

**Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation
and love as we sing our familiar carols.**

**Forgive us for forgetting the magic of this night,
for focusing on ourselves and what we need to do
instead of on the miracle of Jesus' birth.**

**Forgive us for missing the message of hope, peace, and justice,
for choosing what is easy over what is loving.**

Rock us out of our complacency.

**Let us hear angel voices, see shepherds hurrying to a stable,
feel the baby's soft breath on our cheeks, and ponder
in our hearts what all this means for the world, for us. Amen.**

† 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.....Harrison Wilson &
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 (*in unison*).....Grayson Hollett
(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 :.....Johannes Brahms
Chorale Prelude on "Est ist ein Ros' entsprungen"

† 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 & 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

† Hymn No. 246: Joy to the World.....Antioch

Benediction.....Rev. Maggie Jarrell

Voluntary: Improvisation on "Joy to the World"Matthew Phelps

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

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The Altar Flowers are given this Christmas to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Josephine Doubleday
by Mark A. O'Bryan and W. Montgomery Smith

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!

The call to worship and prayer of confession are adapted from the Worship Elements post for Christmas Eve 2021 on *MinistryMatters.com* by Joanne Carlson Brown.

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Music Participants: Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps is organist/pianist. Members of Youth Music, cantors.



One Service TOMORROW - Sunday, December 25

On Sunday, December 25, we will have one worship service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary and on Livestream. There will be no Sunday school classes or Children's Church that day.

2022 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 2022. **The church office will be open until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, 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.
- **WORSHIP INFORMATION ONLINE**
- Use this QR code and your phone's camera to access today's worship information online.



WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2022 at Four o'clock

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500
www.westendumc.org