

## GATHERING

Voluntary: In dulci jubilo .....Dieterich Buxtehude  
Meditation on *Divinum Mysterium* .....Wilbur Held

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: Of the Father's Love Begotten .....Divinum Mysterium  
Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he  
of the things that are that have been and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

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

† Call to Worship .....Emily Capes Robbins  
Liturgist: We have waited through the season of Advent;  
**People: waited, not because we do not know the story of Jesus' coming into the world,**  
Liturgist: and not because we do not know that God is already and always here.  
**People: We waited, because to wait is to expect something more;**  
Leader: to expect that the Christmas story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways  
**People: to bring the change for which we long.**  
Leader: In the stillness of the night, we sensed the first stirrings of Christmas joy  
**People: and knew the wait was over.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle .....Lucius and Revell Carroll

Response: 224, Verse 1 ..... In Dulci Jubilo  
**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

Christmas Collect.....No. 231  
**Eternal God,  
by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world.  
Grant that, being born in our hearts,  
he may save us from all our sins,  
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,  
to whom be everlasting praise and glory,  
world without end.**

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.**

† Hymn No. 238: Angels We Have Heard on High ..... Gloria

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*) .....Michael Weaver  
**As we come to your scriptures, O Lord, open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may welcome your incarnate Son. By his coming shed light  
on our path and fill us with joy, that we may walk the way that leads  
to life. Amen.**

Lesson from the Psalms: Psalm 98.....Michael Weaver

Lesson from the Gospel: John 1:1-14 .....James Sewell

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

† Hymn No. 228: He Is Born..... Il Est Né

Christmas Meditation: "The Joy of the Incarnation" .....Carol Cavin-Dillon

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

Joys & Concerns of the Church..... Erin Racine

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: The Carol of the Birds.....John Jacob Niles

† 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. 251: .....Go Tell it on the Mountain  
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

† Benediction

† Benediction Response: Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain, all sing)  
**Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Voluntary: In dulci jubilo, BWV 729..... J. S. Bach

*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.*

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.

A rose on the table celebrates the birth of Emma Lynn Vormbrock  
on November 6<sup>th</sup> to Julie Stark and Matthew Vormbrock.



*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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Music Participants: Associate Minister of Music, Andrew Risinger is organist. Emma Jackson, soprano.

Today's Music: Surprisingly, "Joy to the World," was not written for Christmas. Rather, Isaac Watts wrote the hymn as a paraphrase of the last five verses in Psalm 98 for his 1719 publication, *The Psalms of David Imitated*. In this hymnal, Watts rewrites many of the psalms using a Christological lens. His versification of Psalm 98 is no different. Verse nine of the psalm reads, "...let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity." Watts unapologetically interprets this as a reference to Christ. The theme of "Christ coming" made it an apt hymn to be sung at Christmastime, and it has since become one of the most beloved Christmas carols.

### ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Join us for worship at **10 a.m.** on January 1. There will be no childcare (your children are always welcome in worship) Sunday School or Children's Church that day.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE TAIZÉ 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 5 pm. The Taizé Team will welcome you with beautiful music and warm smiles.

### 2022 Year-End Contributions

There are several ways you can give. Log on to [westendumc.org/give](https://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 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](https://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



*Joy*

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
December 25, 2022 at Ten o'clock  
Christmas Day

2200 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

615.321.8500  
[www.westendumc.org](https://www.westendumc.org)