



# WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 24, 2023 AT FOUR O'CLOCK  
CHILD-LED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

## GATHERING

Voluntary: Pastorale on *Gesu Bambino* .....Pietro Yon  
Variations on *Adeste Fideles* .....Raynor Taylor

Welcome.....Carol Cavin-Dillon

† Opening Hymn No. 234: O Come, All Ye Faithful, v. 1 and 3 .....Adeste Fideles

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

† Call to Worship .....Eva Grace Woodall

*Leader:* *Animals came to prepare your bed.*  
**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**  
*Leader:* *Shepherds stood guard, marveled and said:*  
**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**  
*Leader:* *Angels sang to calm your cries.*  
**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**  
*Leader:* *And all the world gave one great sigh.*  
**All: Ah, Lord Jesus, you have come!**

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God Emmanuel,  
forgive us for forgetting the magic of this night, for focusing on ourselves  
and what we need to do instead of the miracle of Jesus' birth.  
Forgive us for missing the message of hope, peace, and justice; and for  
choosing what is easy over what is loving.  
Inspire in us this night a love of you and a love of neighbor, and help us  
to live as people changed by your presence here in our world.**

† 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 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.**

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

† 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 Christmas participation story. Gather at the star while singing  
“The First Noel” and follow it around the Sanctuary and back to the chancel area.*

*Children may return to their seats during the singing of “Away in a Manger.”*

Christmas Participation Story .....Caroline Thompson

Lily Thompson

Watson Ward

*For the Christmas Participation Story everyone is invited to join in the story telling.  
Our story tellers will read, but whenever they say certain words, everyone is invited to  
respond with specific phrases. The words to listen for and the responses are...*

Shepherds

**“Hey, Sheep!”**

Sheep

**“Baa!”**

Angel

**“Hallelujah!”**

Good news

**“Yes!”** (with fist pump)

Great Joy

Cheering

Baby

**“Awww”**

† Hymn No. 217: Away in a Manger, *verses 1 and 2*.....Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Offertory: Pastorale Symphony (from *Messiah*).....Handel, arr. Gower

† 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.**

† The Great Thanksgiving (cont.)

*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 youth vocal ensemble will be singing the following hymns during communion: 229, 230, and 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

† Closing Hymn No. 246: Joy to the World, v. 1 and 4 ..... Antioch

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room;  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

† Benediction .....Maggie Jarrell

Voluntary: Toccata on *Antioch* ..... Craig Phillips

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

## ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

### Music Participants

Youth Vocal Ensemble  
Matthew Phelps, Director  
Bethany DiSantis, Assistant

### Bulletin Cover Art

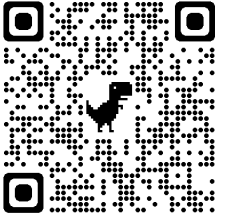
“Nativity,” by contemporary artist James He Qi. He received a 20th Century Award for Achievement in recognition of his work in the field of Religious Art Theory and Christian Art Creation. He Qi visited West End in September, 2022, and gave a talk about his history as an artist. We have often used his works as bulletin cover art pieces.

## A WARM WELCOME TO WEST END

Welcome to West End United Methodist Church! 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!

Scan this QR Code or visit [westendumc.org/links](https://westendumc.org/links) to register your attendance with us, find out more about our Sunday Morning Classes, sign up for our weekly email, and learn more about the different ways to give at West End.



## TAIZÉ LABYRINTH SERVICE

Experience the beauty and peace of Taizé worship around the labyrinth in the 4th Story Theater. Our labyrinth service that usually happens on New Year's Eve will happen on Sunday, January 7 at 5 p.m. Opportunity is offered for individual prayers and anointing for healing. The Taizé team will welcome you with beautiful music and warm smiles. Let go of the burdens of 2023 and enter 2024 with renewed hope and peace.

## YOU'RE STILL INVITED

One of the phrases we often hear from Jesus in the Gospels is his invitation to “follow me.” Each one of us is called to follow Jesus and to live out his love in the world. During the season after Epiphany, we will consider what it means to be “called” as baptized Christians with unique spiritual gifts. During this season we will reaffirm our baptismal vows, hear the stories of the call of the first disciples, explore our spiritual gifts, and recommit ourselves to following Jesus in our everyday lives. Whether you have been a follower of Jesus for fifty years or fifty days, you are (still) invited to hear the call and respond with joy!

## YOUR 2024 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

Have you turned in your 2024 Estimate of Giving yet? Our church depends on the financial support of its members to carry out the ministries and programs that allow West End United Methodist Church to be the loving light of Christ, connecting, transforming. As of December 18, we have 299 estimates for \$1,829,963 for our 2024 revenue. Help our church plan for the coming year by visiting [westendumc.org/estimatetnow](https://westendumc.org/estimatetnow) to let us know your estimated giving for the year.



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