



WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24, 2025 AT THREE O'CLOCK
CHILD-LED CHRISTMAS EVE

GATHERING

Voluntary: Pastorale for Christmas No. 9Valentine Rathgeber
Une Jeune Pucelle Jean-François Dandrieu
Variations on *Adeste Fidelis*.....Raynor Taylor

Welcome.....Carol Cavin-Dillon
Please take a moment to let us know you are here today by either filling out the attendance form in the pew or by visiting westendumc.org/attendance. If you are a first-time guest with us today, please share a way to connect so that we can share more information about West End UMC with you!

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

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession
**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 NoelTraditional 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,"
then 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, Liam Ziegler
*For the Christmas Participation Story, everyone is invited to join in the storytelling.
Our storytellers 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...*

Sheep **"Baa!"**
Angel **"Hallelujah!"**
Good News..... **"Yes!"** (with a fist pump)
Baby..... **"Awww"**

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

† 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

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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

**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

*The congregation is invited to join in the following hymns
with members of the Youth Vocal Ensemble:
217, 230, 229, and 239*

† Prayer after Receiving

**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

† Recessional 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

Voluntary: Christmas Postlude on *Sit Laus Plena, Sit Sonora* William Thomas Best
The postlude is the final Alleluia of our worship.

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

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The altar flowers are given this Christmas Eve to the glory of God in memory of their mothers, Emma Jean Ashton O'Bryan and Carolyn Jane Montgomery Smith by Mark O'Bryan and Monty Smith.

Special thanks to The Tulip Tree for decorating the sanctuary this season.

Worship Participants

Ella Peacock, Carter Wiseman, Ella Wiseman, Hawkins Dale, Caroline Thompson, Liam Ziegler, Brooks Truscello, Matheson Ziegler, Dewitt Goldsby, George Durst, Teddy Owen, Dax Darling, Isla Darling, Piper Truscello, Evie Clare Dale, Duke Deitmen, Eloise Dabbs, George Dabbs, Caroline Durst, Valla Wilson, Penny Page, William Durst, Martha Galletti, Louis Galletti

Thank you also to the parents and other volunteers helping them lead!

Music Participants

Members of the Youth Vocal Ensemble

Matthew Phelps: Director / Organist

ADVENT SPECIAL OFFERING: LUNCHEES FOR HOPE

This year's Advent Offering will go to the Lunches for Hope Program in the Dassa-Zoume region of Benin, Africa. The funds will be used by former West End member Hilarion Vegba who worshipped and studied with us when he was enrolled in a program at Vanderbilt. He had the great idea to provide a daily lunch to the thirty girls enrolled in the program. Before this program, the girls would often have to ask for the money from men who would take advantage of their situations. Now, the thirty girls in the program will receive lunch five days a week for their nine months of school. West End funded this program last year and there was a dramatic decrease in girls dropping out of school, early pregnancy, and trafficking. Our goal of \$10,800 will fund lunches for two years.

DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING

December's communion offering supports the ways we do direct financial assistance in our community through helping with utility bills, rent, mortgage, bus passes. We put all of December's communion offering in a pot called the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and use those funds throughout the year. The needs are higher than ever. With layoffs, furloughs, and SNAP benefits' disruptions, to name a few, we have a record number of callers for our limited funds.

SHARE THE GIFT BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Each Advent season, we make our Share the Gift brochure available that has opportunities for you to support several of our parnters. The focus of this alternative giving. The focus of this alternative giving catalog is to invite you to spend and give differently by making a donation to a local or global ministry in honor of a loved one.

Scan the QR code or visit westendumc.org/sharethegift to check out the gift options.

CHURCH CLOSED DECEMBER 25-26, AND JANUARY 1

The Church Offices and Preschool will be closed the afternoon of December 24 and all day on December 25 to allow our staff and clergy to celebrate the Christmas holiday with their families as well as January 1 for the New Year's holiday. If you have an emergency, please call 615.321.8500 and you will be directed to the minister on call. Please note that Room in the Inn is still happening on our campus on both dates.

TAIZÉ LABYRINTH SERVICE // JANUARY 4

Experience the beauty and peace of Taizé worship around the labyrinth in the 4th Story Theater. Our labyrinth service that is usually on New Year's Eve will take place on Sunday, January 4 at 5:00 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 2025 and enter 2026 with renewed hope and peace.

NEW YEAR, DEEPER YOU // JANUARY 2026

Join us for a 4-week exploration of spirituality and integrated living as part of the GoSolutions® lifestyle framework created by West End UMC member Brian Payne. In leading the class, Brian will create space for faith, doubt, wonder, and everything in between so that participants can discover and renew their authentic spiritual lives. The class will meet on Sundays in January from 9:45 to 10:45 am in Room 319. All materials are provided. Register online at westendumc.org/newyear.

FIRST WEDNESDAY

READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2026 // JANUARY 7

West End UMC will read through the New Testament in 2026, seeking God's fresh voice and direction through our ancient Scriptures. On Wednesday, January 7, Rev. Will McLeane will lead an introductory-level orientation to reading the Bible, discussing Scripture in community, and connecting God's living Word with our lived experience today. Furthermore, the class will offer an excellent opportunity to learn how to use our "Reading the New Testament Guide" and to receive steps and connections to join a small group. You do not need prior experience reading the Bible to attend the event. The program starts at 6 p.m. RSVP at westendumc.org/firstwednesday.

WELCOME TO WEST END UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

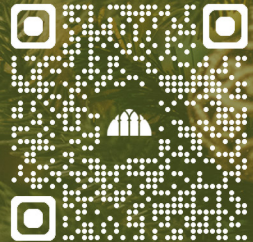
We seek to be the loving light of Christ in Nashville and beyond.

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 that God loves everyone unconditionally!

We are glad you have chosen to worship with us for our annual Christmas Eve Services. We would love to know you are here. Please scan this QR code and register your attendance with us.

You will also find a link that will allow you to give to our December Communion Offering that benefits our Pastor's Discretionary Fund or our Advent Offering that benefits the Lunches for Hope Program in the Dassa-Zoume region of Benin, Africa.



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