

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

May 21, 2017 at Eleven o'clock

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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, race, sexual orientation, economic or family status, ethnicity, or mental or physical ability.

We believe God loves everyone unconditionally!

GATHERING

Voluntary: Adagio in E Major.....Frank Bridge

Welcome..... Chris Allen

Please take a moment to record your attendance in the registration pad found near the center aisle, pass it to your neighbor, and then pass the pad back to the center.

First-time guests 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: Make in Me a Clean Heart G. Thalban-Ball

Make in me a clean heart O God: and renew a right spirit within me.

† Processional Hymn No. 66.....Lauda Anima

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

† Greeting.....Lisa Gwock

Liturgist: Look for God in this place.

People: We search for God's love and peace.

Liturgist: It is here, given for you out of God's absolute love for you.

People: Lord, help us receive that love and then take it to others.

Liturgist: Peace be to you all.

People: And also to you. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Maker and Giver of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied to notice your presence in our lives:

When we walk through this world and fail to see you upholding our lives and all creation;

When we walk through our lives and fail to see you abiding with, within, and around us;

When we walk through holy moments and fail to savor your presence, instead feeling abandoned in the vast sweep of life as each day rushes at us with its demands.

Open our eyes to your presence, God of love, that we may lean on you — for you uphold all of creation in tenderness and power. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

† 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.

(Please be seated.)

Anthem: Antiphon from Five Mystical Songs..... Vaughan Williams

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing my God and king! The heav'ns are not too high, his praise may thither fly! The earth is not to low, his praises there may grow. The church with psalms must shout; no door can keep them out! But above all the heart must bear the longest part. (George Herbert)

The Sacrament of Baptism

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Liturgist: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Commendation and Welcome

† Liturgist: Members of the household of God, I commend Bailey Paige to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

† People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you, Bailey Paige, and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to participate faithfully in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

† Musical Response.....No. 611, st. 1

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign: with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

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 Acts of the Apostles: Acts 17:22-31..(pew Bible, page 902)

Response to the Lesson

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

People: Thanks be to God.

† Hymn No. 103: Immortal, Invisible, God Only WiseSt. Denio

The children are invited to come forward to join Christ at the chancel during the last stanza of the hymn.

Sermon: Design Theory.....Chris Allen

† Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39.....No. 887

† 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.

(You are invited to pass the peace of Christ to those around you.)

Joys & Concerns of the ChurchErin 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.....Traditional spiritual, arr. Jeffrey Ames
I've Been in the Storm So Long

I've been in the storm so long. Oh give me little time to pray. Oh let me tell my mother how I come along. Give me little time to pray; with a hung down head and an aching heart, give me a little time to pray. Oh when I get to heaven I'll walk all about, give me little time to pray. There'll be nobody there to turn me out, give me little time to pray. (traditional spiritual)

† 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!**

SENDING FORTH

† Recessional Hymn No. 140: Great is Thy Faithfulness.....Faithfulness

† Benediction

† Benediction Response.....Ralph Vaughan Williams
God Be With You til We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet a - gain, by his coun - sels
guide, up - hold you, with his sheep se - cure - ly - fold you;
God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Voluntary: Prelude in B minor BWV 544J.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 to stand.*

Head Usher: Barbara Cragg

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding of Kelly Caudle and Richard Joyner.

Joshua Wayne Lowe,
son of Matthew Lowe and Jana Lowe,
was presented for baptism in the early service.

Bailey Paige Samples,
daughter of Zackary Otis Samples and Shaun McGuinn Samples,
is presented for baptism this morning.

A rose on the Communion table is to celebrate the birth of Wright Hastings Goodridge to David and Heather Woodruff Goodridge on May 10, 2017.

A rose on the Communion table is to celebrate the birth of Kirby Grace Lemmons to Kate and Sully Lemmons on May 12, 2017. She is welcomed by her big sister Livie, her Aunt Laura Davis, and her grandparents Ann and Kirby Davis.

Music Participants: The Chancel Choir. Minister of Music, Matthew Phelps, is directing and assisting at the organ. Associate, Andrew Risinger, is organist/accompanist. Molly Wineland, alto.

Today we welcome guest conductor Dr. Jeffrey Ames. Dr. Ames is the director of choral activities at Belmont University. He has also been a professor and conductor at Baylor University, and has taught high school choral music in Florida. Dr. Ames is known internationally as guest conductor and composer. His compositions are published with Earthsongs, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and Walton Music Corporation; and include *I've Been in the Storm So Long*, sung during this morning's service.

Hymnic notes: The processional contrasts images and descriptions of God: the everlasting King, and the enduring, gentle, caring, protecting parent. LAUDA ANIMA (Praise, my soul), is one of the most widely sung, inviting and enduring tunes of the vast Victorian repertory. The recessional is a hymn of praise to an unchanging God in a changing world. Its central theme is from Lamentations 3:23. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.' (Hymnic notes by Carlton Young)

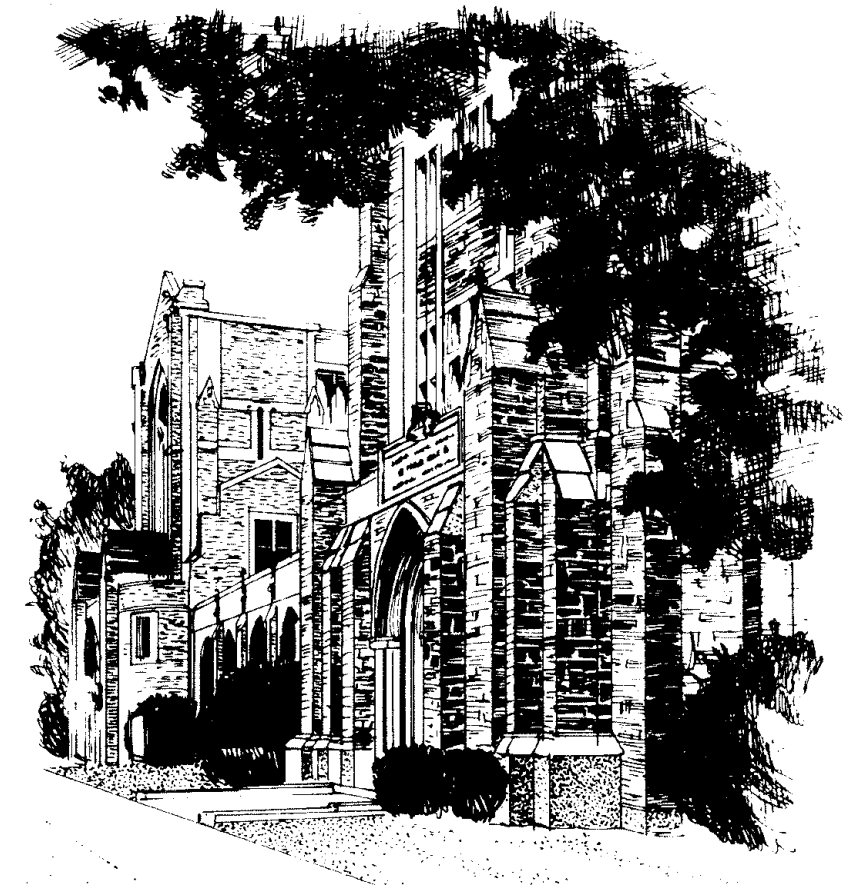
Preaching: Chris Allen
"Design Theory"

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

WEST END

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*The Loving Light of Christ
Connecting, Transforming*



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