

EAST END UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

presents

A SERVICE OF
Lessons and Carols



DECEMBER 14, 2025 | 7:30 PM

**IN THE HISTORIC WIGHTMAN CHAPEL
AT SCARRITT BENNETT CENTER**

Join us for a beautiful night hearing the lessons of
Advent and singing the songs of the season together.



Scarritt
Bennett

East End United Methodist Church

presents a

***SERVICE OF
LESSONS AND CAROLS***

**7:30 PM | Sunday, December 14, 2025
Scarritt Bennett Center | Wightman Chapel
Nashville, Tennessee**

Sanctuary Choir

Jama Bowen, Kris Clements, Barry Heard, Tammy Helm,
Gina Lackore, Anne Overton, Michael Payne, Victoria Petrelli,
Joy Rich, Kent Stewart, Johnny Woodard, Jon Yoder, Carl Zehner

Guest Musicians

Helen Newell, violin
Holling Smith-Borne, piano

East End UMC Ministry Staff

Rev. Brandon Baxter, Lead Pastor
Rev. Joanna Cummings, Pastor with Children and Families
Rev. Joe Lee, Minister of Music
August Phillippi, Youth Coordinator
Derrick Rohl, Organist/Accompanist

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, we long to catch a glimpse of your Spirit. We cup our ears to hear the sound of the angel chorus. We turn our eyes toward the sky to see if we can find your star. We lean forward in our seat to see if we can feel your presence in our midst. We long to catch a glimpse of your Spirit, O God. So on this quiet night, on this holy night, on this joyful night, reveal yourself to us once more. Speak to us through the music and those gathered here. Speak to us through starlight and candlelight. Speak to us through these ancient words once again. We long to catch a glimpse of you. Amen.

Hymn for Advent

*Come Now, O God,
When Our Love Is Forsaken*

Words: Bjorlin; Music: Miller

Come now, O God, when our love is forsaken. Come, when our bedrock of faith has been shaken. Come, when our deepest of hopes are mistaken. O come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. Come, when we squander the freedom you gave us. Come, break the systems of sin that enslave us. Come, though we wonder if you can still save us. O come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. O come, lead us out of our self-serving madness. Come, while the world is enshrouded in sadness. Come, turn the tears of our mourning to gladness. O come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Proclamation of God's Word

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Arlen Becton

Choral Response

The King Shall Come

Sidney King

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks; when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes. The King shall come not as of old, a little child to suffer and to die, but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky. The King shall come when morning dawns and earth's dark night is past. O haste the rising of that morn whose day shall ever last. The King shall come and let the endless bliss being by weary saints foretold. When right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled. Not as of old, a little child to suffer and to die, but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky. The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks. Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray, "Come quickly, King of King."

*Hymn Response No. 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-10

Evie Jo Larrimore

Choral Response

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius/arr. John Purifoy

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah was foretold it, the Rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the Virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half spent was the night. This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels in glorious splendor, the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and lighten every load.

*hymn Response No. 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38, 46-55

Sebastian Krouse

Choral Response

Ave Maria

Jacques Arcadelt/arr. Joyce Eilers

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus Christ. Thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

Musical Response

Breath of Heaven

Kris Clements

I have traveled many moonless nights. Cold and weary with a babe inside. And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father you have come and chosen me now to carry your son. I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear. In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone? Be with me now. Breath of heaven hold me together. Be forever near me, breath of heaven. Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness. Pour over me your holiness for you are holy, breath of heaven. Do you wonder as you watch my face if a wiser one should have had my place? But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan. Help me be strong. Help me be. Help me. Breath of heaven hold me together. Be forever near me, breath of heaven. Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness. Pour over me your holiness for you are holy, breath of heaven.

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Claire Clements

Choral Response

And the Stars Sang

Joseph M. Martin

In the shadow of a stable, in the loneliness of night, a mother rocks her baby by a single candle's light. And as the world lay sleeping, she prays in whispers low: "God grant to us a lullaby, one song to bring us hope." And the stars began to sing, and the heavens rang with praise, and the angels filled the night with music sent from the heart of God. By the gentle glow of starlight, Mary wipes a falling tear. She stares in silent wonder at the baby she holds near. And her soul is filled with glory, and her heart is filled with praise; through tears of joy she tries to sing what words can never say. And the stars began to sing, and the heavens rang with praise, and the angels filled the night with music sent from the heart of God.

Choral Response

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger!
O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Jim Rich

Choral Response

*Come, Watch with Us This
Christmas Night*

K. Lee Scott

Come, watch with us this Christmas night; our hearts must travel far to darkened hills and heavens bright with star on shining star; to where in shadowy silence sleep the fields of Bethlehem, as shepherds wake their watch to keep and we will watch with them. Who would not join the angel songs that tell the Savior's birth? The Lord for whom creation longs has come at last to earth. The fullness of the Maker's love is ours at Bethlehem, while angels throng the skies above and we will sing with them. Who would not journey far to share the wisdom of the wise, and gaze with them in wonder where the world's Redeemer lies? The Lord of all the Lords that are is born at Bethlehem, and kings shall kneel beneath his star and we will bow with them. Lift every heart the hymn of praise that all creation sings; the angel host its homage pays, the shepherds and the kings. For earth and sky with one accord, O child of Bethlehem, are come to worship Christ the Lord and we will come with them.

Hymn Response No. 217

Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

Sixth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Emily Chadwick

Choral Response

Verbum caro factum est

H.L. Hassler/ed. C.G. Richter

Thus the Word was made as flesh, and thereby dwelt among humankind, and thereby lived among us;
thus the Word was made as flesh, and thereby dwelt among humankind, and thereby lived among us;
and thence we beheld his own glory as of the one begotten of the Maker, full of grace and of the greatest goodness.

Hymn Response No. 240

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Response to the Word

Musical Offering

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'til He appears, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born. O night, O Holy night, O night divine! Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming here come the Wise Men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend. He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King; before Him lowly bend. Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is Peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother and, in His name, all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we. Let all within us Praise His Holy name: Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim!

[Congregational lighting of candles as this piece is sung]

Sending Forth

Prayer and Blessing

Rev. Brandon Baxter

Choral Benediction

Silent Night

Franz Grüber/arr. Dan Forrest

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child; Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heav'nly peace. Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. Silent night, Holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing "Alleluia" to our King, "Christ the Savior is born!"

*Please stand for hymns as you are able.

+ Call to worship adapted from liturgy by Joanna Hanader, and posted on Spacious Faith, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>, accessed via <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/12/call-to-worship-prayer-christmas.html>.

++ Prayer for illumination adapted from liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.



Scarritt Bennett

Scarritt Bennett Center is a nonprofit conference, retreat,
and transformative education center.

Our mission is to create space where individuals and
groups engage each other to achieve a more just world.

Thank you for worshipping with East End United Methodist Church this evening. We are grateful that you are here. If you do not yet have plans for worship on Christmas Eve, you are invited to worship with us at Eastwood Christian Church, 1601 Eastland Avenue, 37206. Our service begins at 1:00 p.m.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to Scarritt Bennett Center, donations may be placed in the plates as you leave the service. All contributions will go back to the work and ministries of Scarritt Bennett Center.