

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



*Welcome to Court Street United Methodist Church*



We are a people called United Methodists.  
*Open Hearts    Open Minds    Open Doors*

The mission of Court Street United Methodist Church is to be a welcoming, nurturing, and serving community of Christ.

*Epiphany Sunday (Covenant Renewal)*  
January 1, 2023

**Parents, please escort your children to the restrooms.  
Please keep your personal belongings with you at all times.  
Please continue to social distance even if you are vaccinated. Thank you.  
§ denotes when to stand as you are able**

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## **WE GATHER TO BE NURTURED**

*Ringing of the Bell - Please use this to begin focusing for worship.*

Prelude

“March”

~ J.S. Bach

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, Searcher of all our hearts,  
you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own.  
As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace,  
and to enter anew into covenant with you,  
reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us.  
Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being,  
and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

~ David Tripp, Eng. 20th c

## **LITANY OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend,  
you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives.  
We thank you for your loving care,  
which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.  
**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have given us life and reason,  
and set us in a world filled with your glory.  
You have comforted us with family and friends,  
and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.  
**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,  
and have given us your peace.  
You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus.  
You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit  
and the witness of your Church.  
**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have been our light in darkness  
and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.  
You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys

and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You remembered us when we forgot you.

You followed us even when we tried to flee from you.

You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you.

For all your patience and overflowing grace.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

~“Covenant Renewal Service” Copyright © 1992 UMPH.  
Wesley Covenant Service abridged by Ole E. Borgen.

§ **Opening Hymn UMH #240**

**“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”**

**WE ARE NURTURED BY GOD’S WORD**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

*Leader: This is the Word of God for The People of God.*

***People: Thanks be to God.***

Children’s Message

*James L. Crow*

§ **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12

*Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

***People: Glory to you, O Lord.***

Message

“The True Star”

*Rev. Calvin Culpepper*

Covenant Prayer UMH #607

“A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition”

**I am no longer my own, but thine.**

**Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.**

**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,**

**Exalted for thee or brought low by thee.**

**Let me be full, let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things, let me have nothing.**

**I freely and heartily yield all things**

**To thy pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, O glorious and blessed God,**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,**

**Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.**

**And the covenant which I have made on earth,**

**Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Please turn to page 12 in the front of The United Methodist Hymnal.*

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

“As The Deer ”

~ Martin Nystrom

Presented by Chancel Choir

§ **Doxology UMH #94**

**“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

*Please remain standing as you are able after the Doxology*

## THE SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

*Please refer to the liturgy below for The Great Thanksgiving.*

*Responses are in bold italics.*

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,

from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,***

***heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!***

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,

in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born;

and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world,

you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

***Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. ***Amen.***

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray: ***THE LORD’S PRAYER***

*The communion bread served is gluten-free so that all may partake of the Holy Sacrament.*

## **WE ARE SCATTERED TO SERVE**

§ Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #246

**“Joy to the World”**

§ Benediction

God sends you forth from the gathered church to be ambassadors for Christ. God looks for anyone who will lift instead of lean, help instead of hinder. Go to claim a corner of the world for God and may God’s Spirit go with you and abide with you. ***Amen.***

*~ Duck and Tirabassi, 243*

Choral Benediction

“Deep Peace”

*~ Bernard Sexton*

Postlude

“Minuet #10 ”

*~ J.S. Bach*

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***Your contributions in the white baskets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month at Communion will be greatly appreciated to further our local outreach. The Local Mission Committee will report what they do with your monthly contributions in The Chimes.***

# Court Street United Methodist Church

215 North Court Street, Rockford, IL 61103

Church Office: (815) 962-6061 | Church Fax: (815) 962-9754

[www.courtstreetumc.org](http://www.courtstreetumc.org)

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Ushers:** The Sue Cram Team

**Liturgist:** Lorelle Wandell

**Van Driver:** Bruce Shindel

**Acolyte:** Kaylee Bulliner

## Announcements

- **There will be no livestream video for this service.** There will also be no Facetime after service.
- **SCRIP will not be sold today, and all other after-service activities are cancelled.**
- **The Church will be closed TOMORROW, Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of New Year's.**
- **Everyone is invited to participate in our next All-Church Meeting, scheduled at 9 a.m. in the Dining Room on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.** Let us continue to plan for the future together. (PLEASE NOTE: UMM will not meet that morning).
- **Prairie North is holding a District Leadership Training session on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.** It costs \$10 to participate, runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon, and includes snacks. Participants will choose 2 classes out of 8 available. The event will be at Faith UMC, Freeport, IL. Registration: [www.umcnic.org/calendar/prairie-north-leadership-training](http://www.umcnic.org/calendar/prairie-north-leadership-training)
- **Happy Birthday! to everyone celebrating a birthday this week:** Owen Crawford (1/1); Alex Liddell (1/1); Phil Zeilinger (1/1); Matthew K. Schaub (1/2); Robert Addis (1/3); John Walters (1/3); Alex Luddington (1/4); Ruth Hoover (1/5); Ryan Welk (1/5); James Crow (1/6); Allen Hoople (1/6); Stan Tunnell (1/6); Bettye Norman (1/7); and Matthew Wandell (1/7) [*No Wedding Anniversaries on Record*]

**Have a Happy New Year!**

## Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

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