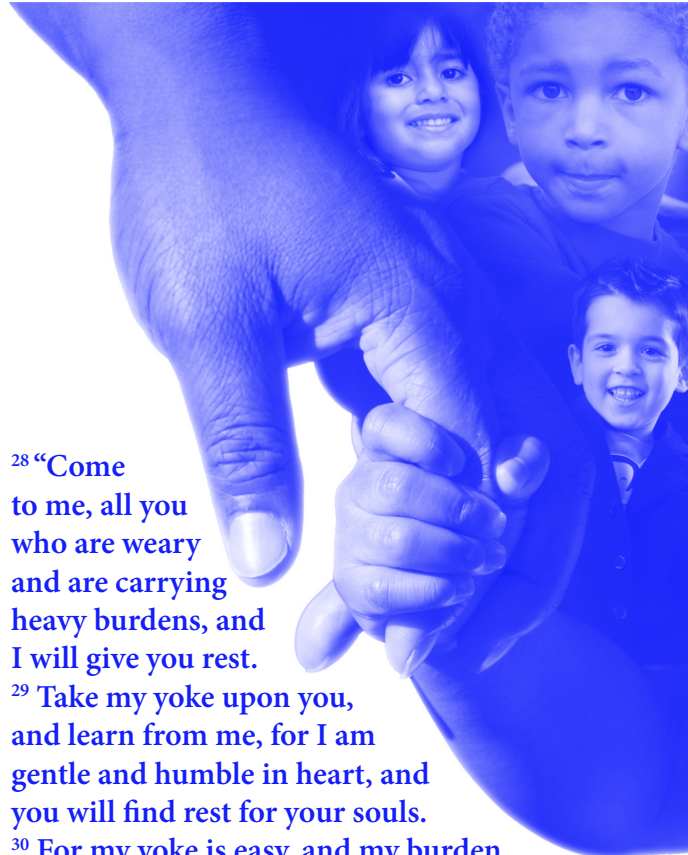


# ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

<sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30, NRSVUE

*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.**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**(Blue Sunday)**

**April 30, 2023**

**Parents, please escort your children to the restrooms.  
Please keep your personal belongings with you at all times.  
Please continue to social distance; Masks may be worn at your discretion.  
Thank you.**

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

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## **WE GATHER to be NURTURED**

*Ringing of the Bell*

Prelude “Sheep May Safely Graze” *J.S. Bach*

### **§ Call to Worship (Beautiful Children Prayer)**

*Leader:* Dear Lord, for every hurt or neglected child, please send 1,000 angels to protect them.

*People:* **Give them the strength to face trials and support them as they face the rest of the world.**

*Leader:* Keep their spirits near to You.

*People:* **Give them confidence and don't let the enemy take away their faith.**

*All:* **Open the hearts of the community to them and show us all ways to convince these children that they are beautiful, precious children that belong to You. Amen.**

**§ Opening Hymn UMH #376 “Dona Nobis Pacem”**

## **WE ARE NURTURED by GOD'S WORD**

Old Testament Reading *Psalm 23*

*Please refer to your Bible's Table of Contents to locate this scripture.*

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

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

Children's Message *This Year's Confirmands*

Processional Hymn UMH # 191, vs. 1 *“Jesus Loves Me”*

*The children are invited to come forward as we sing.*

Concluding Hymn “Hallelujah (Praise Ye the Lord)” *Author Unknown*

**§ Gospel Reading** *Matthew 11:25-30*

*Please refer to your Bible's Table of Contents to locate this scripture.*

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

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

“Rest for the Weary”  
*Rev. Calvin Culpepper*

## **WE RESPOND to GOD’S WORD**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer, UMH #895

Capital Improvements Campaign Presentation

*Lorelle Wandell*

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

“All Good Gifts”  
Presented by Chancel Choir

*Martin*

§ **Doxology UMH #94**

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

## **WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE**

§ **Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #474**

**“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

§ **Benediction**

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21).

Choral Benediction

“Christ Be With Me”

*Keveren*

Postlude

Pastorale on “Brother James Air”

*Dennis R. Johnson*

*You are invited to finish worship by listening to the Postlude.*

*If you wish to leave, you may do so, leaving quietly so others may enjoy the Postlude.*

**Facetime by the Big Bell**

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The month of April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and today is Blue Sunday, the last Sunday of the month, in which church congregations can take a moment to share information about child abuse awareness during their worship services. Today’s insert with statistics is courtesy of bluesunday.org. Please take a moment to review this information, and if you did not receive a blue ribbon from an usher, please request one before you leave.



Altar flowers given in memory of the wedding anniversary of Gwen & Leslie Thomas  
(April 26<sup>th</sup>) by the Gwen Thomas Memorial Bequest.

# 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

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

<b>Ushers:</b>	The Sue Cram Team	<b>Van Driver:</b>	Bruce Shindel
<b>Sound Tech:</b>	Tim Welk	<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ella Anderson
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Lorelle Wandell	<b>Video Tech:</b>	Steve Ripley
<b>Facetime Hosts:</b>	Volunteer(s) welcome.	<b>Livestream Techs:</b>	Krysta Tilges & Ella Anderson

## Announcements

- **The Waffles & Worship Ministry needs folks to work in the kitchen and dining room from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., particularly in after-service cleanup.**
- **Today we will collect the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children.** Special envelopes are available from ushers and in the Narthex for whomever wishes to support this appeal.
- **Today, we mark Blue Sunday as part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.**
- **The Garden Bazaar needs bakers for its accompanying Bake Sale.** Diane Lutmer and Bert Cromwell will have bakers boxes for all your yummy goodies for the May 19<sup>th</sup> sale in the Narthex after today's service and after next week's service.
- **The Bishop's Appeal for this year's annual conference is a request for donation items used to assemble personal dignity kits.** Many hygiene products go into these kits: an individually-wrapped toothbrush, a bar of soap, bath towels, etc. We request you donate these items, listed on the poster in the handicap vestibule, to the drop box in the Narthex now until the beginning of June. Items will be taken to the conference for final donation.
- **Mother's Day is coming up on May 14<sup>th</sup>.** Surprise your mother with a gift card to her favorite retailer or cover the cost of the afternoon's lunch with a restaurant card purchased from the SCRIP table. There are many options for gift giving, and sales help raise money for the church.

## Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

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Bert Cromwell	Nursery		
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