

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.”

Matthew 22:2-3, NIV



**20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

October 15, 2023



*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.

**Parents, please escort your children to the restrooms.  
Please keep your personal belongings with you at all times.  
Thank you.**

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

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## **WE GATHER to be NURTURED**

*Ringing of the Bell*

Prelude

“Aria”

*Leon Nelson*

### **§ Call to Worship**

*Leader:* There is a great wedding being planned, and we are all invited.

*All:* **We are ready and waiting to meet our Lord face to face!**

*Leader:* There will be feasting and dancing and great celebration.

*All:* **We are ready and waiting to meet our Lord face to face!**

*Leader:* The Bridegroom is coming to take us all home.

*All:* **We are ready and waiting to meet our Lord face to face!**

*Leader:* All that is broken will be made whole. All that is wrong will be made right.

*All:* **We are ready and waiting to meet our Lord face to face!**

*Leader:* We do not know when, but we must be ready!

*All:* **We are ready and waiting to meet our Lord face to face!  
Lord Jesus, come quickly!**

### **§ Opening Hymn UMH #140**

**“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

## **WE ARE NURTURED by GOD’S WORD**

New Testament Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

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

*Leader:* This is the Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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

Children’s Message

*James L. Crow*

Processional Hymn UMH # 585, vs. 1

“This Little Light of Mine”

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

Noisy Offering (Donations Benefit Our Waffles & Worship Ministry)

Concluding Hymn

“Hallelujah (Praise Ye the Lord)”

*Author Unknown*

Pastor Appreciation Sunday Presentation

§ Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:1-14

*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.***

**Message**

**“R.S.V.P.”**

*Rev. Calvin Culpepper*

## **WE RESPOND to GOD'S WORD**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, UMH #895

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

“Abide with Me”

*Endean*

Presented by Jubellation

§ Doxology UMH #94

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

## **WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE**

§ Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #715

**“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”**

§ Benediction

The King is throwing a party, and we're all invited! Enjoy the God of the feast this week — rejoice in God's love, revel in Christ's friendship, live in the freedom of the Spirit, and share the feast with others. Amen!

Benediction Response

*Armstrong*

Postlude

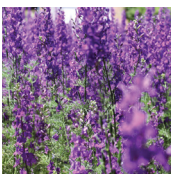
“The Lord's My Shepherd”

*Donald Hustad*

*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.*

**Please join us in the Narthex for a special reception for Pastor Appreciation Sunday.**



Altar flowers given by SPRC in appreciation for all that Pastor Cal and Gwen Culpepper do for our congregation.



# Court Street United Methodist Church

215 North Court Street, Rockford, IL 61103

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

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Ushers:** The Sue Cram Team  
**Sound Tech:** Tim Welk  
**Van Driver:** Jeff Mann

**Acolyte:** Lili Breson  
**Video Tech:** Steve Ripley  
**Liturgist:** Andrew Crow

**Livestream Tech:** Krysta Tilges & Ella Anderson

**Pastor Appreciation Reception Hostesses:** Judy Mehren and Jeanine Wang

## Announcements

- **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.** Ribbon bookmarks are still available in the Narthex. Our subcommittee is meeting this Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> in the Library at 11 a.m. Feel free to join them.
- **Join us after service in the Narthex for our Pastor Appreciation Sunday Reception.** We'll enjoy some coffee and cake and share some recollections and recognitions of Pastor Cal and Gwen.
- **Don't forget the SCRIP Committee has a wide selection of retail gift cards to help you with your autumn seasonal needs.** Consider Menards, Lowe's, and The Home Depot for lawn care; Shell, Mobil, BP, and Circle K for road trips; Dunkin' and Starbucks for cups of warm coffee or tea; and Amazon, Walmart, and Target for seasonal decorations and food.
- **YIKES! The CROP Hunger Walk is TODAY.** It's not too late to join the Court Street team, and it's never too late to support the cause. Donations primarily benefit CWS. The walk itself will take place at 1 p.m., departing from the Riverfront Museum Park (Discovery Center). For more information, speak with Verlette or Tim Gorman or visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/court-street-united-methodist-church>.
- **The UWF Baked Potato Bar previously scheduled for Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> has been CANCELLED.**
- **Letters announcing Consecration Sunday were mailed earlier in the week.** Attached to each was an information sheet about directly donating pre-tax dollars to the church from a retirement fund, such as an IRA; most helpful for those who must draw from their accounts but would also like to support the church financially while reducing their yearly income tax burden. The other item sent was a blue pledge card. Though financial support (tithing) is the form of Stewardship that first comes to mind, there are other ways to be a sustaining member. We hope you prayerfully consider all of them, fill out your blue card, and bring it with you on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> so that Pastor Cal may bless it. Additional cards will be available in the Narthex starting next week.

## Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

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