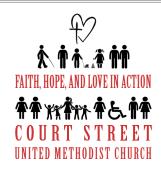
# ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 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

#### WE GATHER TO BE NURTURED

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "Creator of the Stars of Night" Richard Warner

Lighting of the Advent Candle - First Sunday

Dr. Lisa Hancock, (2023)

Reader #1: Isaiah 64:1-3
Reader #2: Mark 13:35

People: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of

our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.

Reader #1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to

God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

#### § Call to Worship

One: Something stirs deep within us ...

All: A longing, a hope,

One: A thirst for joy,

All: A hunger for peace,

One: A yearning for blessing.

All: We know deep within

One: That our hopes and fears

All: Will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.

One: It is Advent ...

All: Season of waiting, hoping, yearning.

One: Advent ...

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

# **§ Opening Hymn UMH #196**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

# WE ARE NURTURED BY GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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.

Concluding Hymn

"Hallelujah (Praise Ye the Lord)"

Author Unknown

§ Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

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 Mark.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

#### Message

"Ready or Not!"

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Please turn to page 12 in the front of The United Methodist Hymnal. You may also follow along with the slides for today's communion liturgy.

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King" Presented by Chancel Choir

Arr. Stan Pethel

§ Doxology UMH #94

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Please remain standing as you are able.

### THE SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

We will use Musical Setting A on p. 17 for the sung responses. 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 #626

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

§ Benediction

To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, be glory and honor and power, now and forevermore! Amen.

Choral Benediction

"Our Last Amen"

Keveren

Postlude

"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"

Karl Osterland

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



# 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**

**Ushers:** The DuWayne Stanis Team

**Sound Tech:** Ryan Welk **Van Driver**: Tim Gorman Acolyte: Lili Breson Video Tech: Steve Ripley

**Liturgist:** Dorothy Powell

**Livestream Techs:** Krysta Tilges & Ella Anderson **Facetime Hostesses**: Joanne Muck & Donna Dow

# Ammouncements

- Staff and Committee <u>written reports</u> for the charge conference book are due no later than TOMOR-ROW, Monday, <u>December 4</u>th. Submissions made after Monday will only be included in the final report at the discretion of the office staff.
- The Annual Conference is scheduled for Monday, <u>December 11</u>th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. SPRC meets at 5:45 in the Library.
- The ECHO Ringers are holding their "Ring We Now of Christmas" concert at Grace UMC at 3 p.m. this afternoon, Sunday, <u>December 3<sup>rd</sup></u>. Free will offerings are appreciated.
- **Tis the Season for Angel Tree.** The Angel Tree table is currently set up in the Narthex. Angel Tree is a ministry that helps incarcerated parents buy Christmas presents for their children. Make sure you've spoken with Barb or Gene Ferry or a representative before you make any purchases.
- The first Midweek Advent Service is on Wednesday, <u>December 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. in the Sanctuary</u>. Following the service, the UWF will hold their December Luncheon and Carol Sing. No RSVP required; donations appreciated. PLEASE NOTE: the office personnel will be participating, so the office will be closed during both the service and the luncheon, roughly from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Middle and High School-aged youth are welcome to join Ryanne for a special holiday shopping trip at Target's E. State location on Saturday, <u>December 9<sup>th</sup></u> at 11 a.m.
- In addition to being gifts themselves, SCRIP cards can help you make purchases for holiday gifts, food, decorations, entertainment, etc. To guarantee delivery for Christmas, place your orders by <u>December 10</u>th.
- We're sending a care package to Malachi DeLeon. Please donate any or all of the following items by Sunday, <u>December 10<sup>th</sup></u>: beef jerkey, Hormel Compleats microwavable meals, hard candy, gum, chapstick, and letters of love to Malachi.

#### Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Calvin Culpepper	Pastor	ext. 220	cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
Ryanne Ludington	Director of Christian Education		ludingtonryanne@gmail.com
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Bert Cromwell	Nursery		
Bill Kint	Maintenance Engineer		Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org