

# 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"

*Arr. Stan Pethel*

Presented by Chancel Choir

§ **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

<b>Ushers:</b>	The DuWayne Stanis Team	<b>Acolyte:</b>	Lili Breson
<b>Sound Tech:</b>	Ryan Welk	<b>Video Tech:</b>	Steve Ripley
<b>Van Driver:</b>	Tim Gorman	<b>Liturgist:</b>	Dorothy Powell

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

## Announcements

- **Staff and Committee written reports for the charge conference book are due no later than TOMORROW, Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.** 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, December 11<sup>th</sup> 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, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 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, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** 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, December 9<sup>th</sup> 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 December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **We’re sending a care package to Malachi DeLeon.** Please donate any or all of the following items by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: 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
James L. Crow	Director of Arts Ministries	ext. 209	jlcrow@live.com
Krysta Tilges	Director of Video Ministries		ktilges@gmail.com
Jack Armstrong	Director of Music	ext. 221	gogo234@att.net
Andrew Mertenich	Organist		andrew.mertenich@gmail.com
Teresa Field	Parish Nurse		Teresabsf5@yahoo.com
Verlette Gorman	Church Administrator	ext. 202	ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org
Tiffany Wilken	Publications Secretary	ext. 200	Communications@courtstreetumc.org
Bert Cromwell	Nursery		
Bill Kint	Maintenance Engineer		Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org