

ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 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 “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People” *Egil Hovland*

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Second Sunday *Dr. Lisa Hancock, (2023)*

Reader #1: Isaiah 40:1

Reader #2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

***People:* We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

Reader #1: We light these candles as signs of God’s shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

§ Call to Worship

One: God spoke through the prophet Isaiah,

***All:* “Comfort, O comfort, my people.”**

One: A voice cries out,

***All:* “Prepare the way of the Lord!”**

One: Every valley will be lifted up, every mountain brought low, and the glory of the Lord will be revealed. All people shall witness this together,

***All:* For the mouth of God has spoken.**

One: Come, O Come, Emmanuel;

***All:* We wait for You to enter our world and our lives in a new way.**

—Rev. Mindi, rev-o-lution.org.

§ Opening Hymn UMH #216

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

WE ARE NURTURED BY GOD’S WORD

New Testament Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

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 1:1-8

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

"Breaking the Cycle!"

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, UMH #895

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

"Jubilate, Sing Praise!"

Arr. Stewart Harris

Presented by Chancel Choir

§ Doxology UMH #94

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

WE ARE SCATTERED TO SERVE

§ Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #220

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

§ Benediction

We go forth from this place with eyes fully opened to the One the world recognizes not. We have seen his glory — the glory of the One and only who comes from God, full of grace and truth.

Choral Benediction

"Our Last Amen"

Keveren

Postlude

"People, Look East!"

Wayne Wold

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: Stan Tunnell

Van Driver: Jeff Mann

Acolyte: Ella Anderson

Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Liturgist: Lorelle Wandell

Livestream Techs: Krysta Tilges & Ella Anderson

Facetime Hostesses: Nancy Doran, Georgalee George, and Dorothy Powell

Announcements

- **The Annual Conference is scheduled for TOMORROW, Monday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** SPRC meets at 5:45 in the Library.
- **TODAY is the last day to sign up for an Angel Tree angel.** The Angel Tree table is currently set up in the Narthex. Make sure you've spoken with Barb or Gene or a representative before you make any purchases.
- **The next Midweek Advent Service is on Wednesday, December 13th at 12 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**
- **In addition to being gifts themselves, SCRIP cards can help you make purchases for the holidays.** To guarantee delivery in time for Christmas, particularly for special order cards, place your orders TODAY.
- **If you brought items for Malachi's care package, please place your donations in the drop box in the Narthex as this is the final day we are collecting.**
- **Our annual Mitten Tree is set up in the Narthex and waiting to be decorated with your generous donations.** The hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens you donate will benefit the students at Haskell School.
- **The ladies of the Chatterbox Supper Group are meeting at Franchesco's on Thursday, December 14th at 6 p.m.** To reserve a spot in the group, contact Cindy Fisher at (815) 519-3653 by Noon of Wed., Dec. 13th.
- **The Christmas Brunch listed in the yearly planning guide has been cancelled. However, the youth will hold a Christmas Party after service on Sunday, December 17th in the Dining Room.**
- **REMINDER:** Individual church statements for giving to the Church Operating Budget (Pledging) and for the Capital Improvements Campaign come out after yearend has closed. At that point, it's too late to catch up on our commitments for this year. As a church, we are considerably behind on our pledge requirement for the year. Please review your commitment for 2023 and use the next 3 weeks to improve our financial situation. Your 3rd quarter statements can let you know where you stand for the year. Thank you for your commitments to the church! Gene Ferry, *Treasurer.*

Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

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