

ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 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

“Preamble”

Louis Vierne

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Third Sunday

Dr. Lisa Hancock, (2023)

Reader #1: Isaiah 61:1-3a

Reader #2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

***People:* We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God’s people.**

Reader #1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God’s kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

§ Call to Worship

Call: We wait, for the day of celebration...

***Response:* We wait for you.**

Call: We wait, for the glory of your coming...

***Response:* We wait for you.**

Call: We wait, for the gift of our Savior come to earth as a baby...

***Response:* We wait for you.**

***All:* In this beautiful Advent season, we wait for you.**

§ Opening Hymn UMH #160

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

WE ARE NURTURED BY GOD’S WORD

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

§ Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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 John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Message

“What Are You Waiting For?”

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, UMH #895

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

“What Child Shall Come?”

Liebergen

Presented by Chancel Choir

§ **Doxology UMH #94**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

WE ARE SCATTERED TO SERVE

§ **Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #240**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

§ Benediction

May the stars be extra bright,
May the song of the angels be clear,
May the love of God hold you today, and
May God bring joy to you and all who are near.

-SourceBook of Worship Resources
(Canton, Ohio: Communication Resources, Inc, 1994), 215.

Choral Benediction

“Christ Be With Me”

Keveren

Postlude

“Woodlands (Tell Out My Soul)”

J. Wayne Kerr

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

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www.courtstreetumc.org

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Ushers:	The DuWayne Stanis Team	Acolyte:	Kaylee Bulliner
Sound Tech:	Tim Welk	Video Tech:	Steve Ripley
Van Driver:	Curly Thompson	Liturgist:	Dorothy Powell

Livestream Techs: Krysta Tilges & Ella Anderson

Facetime Hostesses: Judy Mehren

Announcements

- **The Christmas Brunch listed in the yearly planning guide has been cancelled. However, the youth will hold a Christmas Party after service TODAY in the Dining Room; Facetime will be in the Narthex.**
- **The final Midweek Advent Service of the season is this Wednesday, December 20th at 12 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**
- **Next Sunday is Christmas Eve.** We will hold worship at our normal time of 10 a.m. This service will be family friendly. We will also hold a Candlelight Service at 9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This evening service is our traditional service of Carols and Lessons accompanied by communion and lighting of candles.
- **Though it is too late to special order SCRIP cards in time for Christmas, SCRIP still has a great selection of cash and carry cards to shop.** Cards for more popular retailers like Culver's may be in limited supply, so please inquire about availability for larger orders.
- **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.
- **REMINDER:** Individual church statements for giving to the Church Operating Budget (Pledging) and for the Capital Improvements Campaign come out after yearend. At that point, it's too late to catch up on our 2023 commitments. As a church, we are considerably behind on our pledge requirement for the year. Please review your commitment for 2023 and use the next 2 weeks to improve our financial situation. Your 3rd quarter statements can let you know where you stand. Thank you for your commitments to the church! Gene Ferry, *Treasurer*.

Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

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