

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS EVE**

December 24, 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

“Berceuse”

*Louis Vierne*

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Fourth Sunday

*Dr. Lisa Hancock, (2023)*

*Reader #1:* When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

*Reader #2:* We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, “How can this be? I am only...” Yet, like Mary, the “onlys” that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.

***People:* We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.**

*Reader #1:* We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

### **§ Call to Worship**

*Leader:* O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant

***Group:* O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem**

*Leader:* Come, let us adore him, born the King of angels

***Group:* O come, let’s us adore him**

*Leader:* O come, let’s us adore him

***All:* Christ the Lord.**

### **§ Opening Hymn UMH #245**

**“The First Noel”**

## **WE ARE NURTURED BY GOD’S WORD**

### **§ Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1-20

*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 Luke.

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

§ **Hymn of Reflection UMH #217**

**“Away in a Manger”**

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*

**Message**

**“A Declaration of Peace”**

*David Day*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

**“The Little Drummer Boy”**

Presented by *Robert Strader*

§ **Doxology UMH #94**

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

Stick Ministry

**“Light of the World”**

Presented by *Tegan Ludington & Ella Anderson*

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Please stand as you are able)

COMMUNION: SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Please refer to screens or insert for Christmas Eve communion liturgy.

**WE ARE SCATTERED TO SERVE**

§ **Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #246**

**“Joy to the World”**

§ **Benediction**

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart.

Go in hope, peace, joy, and love...to spread the beauty of Christmas.

**“The Work of Christmas”** by Howard Thurman, ucc.org

**Benediction Response UMH #239**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

Postlude

**“Angels We Have Heard On High”**

*Richard Elliot*

*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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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:** Ella Anderson

**Video Tech:** Steve Ripley

**Liturgist:** Andrew Crow

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

**Facetime Hostesses:** Joan & Stan Tunnell

## Announcements

- **Tonight at 9:30 p.m. we will hold our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.** This evening service is our traditional service of Carols and Lessons accompanied by communion and lighting of candles.
- **The church will be closed tomorrow, Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Day.** Have a safe and very Merry Christmas!
- **SCRIP has a great selection of cash and carry cards to shop.** Cards for more popular retailers may be in limited supply due to the holiday rush, so please inquire about availability.
- **Our next Waffles and Worship service is next week, Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 8 a.m. in the dining room.** Please join us for a hot breakfast and a modern praise worship service.
- **Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> is the last 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of this year.** Next week, we will have special offering envelopes for United Voices for Children available in the Narthex and from ushers.
- **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 year end. 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 week to improve our financial situation. Your 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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