

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 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**

*Ringling of the Bell*

Prelude

“When He Cometh (Jewels)”

*Gordon Young*

### **§ Call to Worship**

*Leader:* The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted;

*People:* **He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;**

*Leader:* To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God;

*People:* **To grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes,**

*Leader:* The oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit;

*All:* **That they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.**

–Isaiah 61:1-3 (RSV)

### **§ Opening Hymn UMH #217**

“Away in a Manger”

## **WE ARE NURTURED BY GOD’S WORD**

New Testament Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

*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

*Ryanne Ludington*

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

Luke 2:22-40

*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.**

### **Message**

**“At The Right Time!”**

*Rev. Calvin Culpepper*

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, UMH #895

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

**“Grown-Up Christmas List”**

*Foster/Thompson-Jenner*

Presented by Jack Armstrong

§ **Doxology UMH #94**

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

## **WE ARE SCATTERED TO SERVE**

§ **Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #216**

**“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”**

§ Benediction

Make us remember, O God, that every day is your gift, to be used according to your command.  
Amen!

—Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), English writer, lexicographer.

Instrumental Benediction

**“Amen”**

Postlude

**“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”**

*Paul Laubengayer*

*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:** Tim Welk

**Van Driver:** Jeff Mann

**Acolyte:** Lili Breson

**Video Tech:** Steve Ripley

**Liturgist:** Karen Brown

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

**Facetime Hostesses:** Volunteer(s) welcome.

## Announcements

- **The church will be closed tomorrow, Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Day.** Have a safe and Happy New Year!
- **SCRIP has a great selection of cash and carry cards to shop and many others available for special order.**
- **Worship will be removing the greens on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 p.m.**
- **The ladies of the Chatterbox Supper Group are meeting at The Olympic Tavern on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** To reserve a spot in the group, contact Cindy Fisher at (815) 519-3653 by Noon of Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. **PLEASE NOTE:** SCRIP sells gift cards for the Olympic.
- **TODAY is the last 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of this year.** We have special offering envelopes for United Voices for Children available in the Narthex and from ushers.
- **The Mitten Tree is still 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. Please submit donations no later than Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Otherwise, late donations may be distributed to someone else in need.

## Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Calvin Culpepper	Pastor	ext. 220	cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
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