



# Welcome to Court Street United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Family Worship

December 24, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Steve & Sarah Whitmore Family

*Leader:* Our journey of hope has brought us here. A season of hope culminates with the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Tonight we light the Christ candle.

***People:* Jesus Christ is our hope. God has kept his promise. The promise of a Savior is fulfilled this night!**

*Leader:* Because Christ has come, we can live beyond mere circumstance. Now we live into the truth that the Light of the World has come. By this light we see the way.

***People:* God, in Jesus we see the Word made flesh. In knowing Jesus, we find our rest. We set our burdens aside and kneel at his manger bed.**

*Leader:* Born to us and the whole world is the Child of Hope. In Jesus we have peace, joy, and love -- God's gift to us for all eternity. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH # 234

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray together:

***Teach us again to listen for angel voices, O God. Open our ears to hear your word over the sounds of a season misdirected. Cast your light on these words as they are read and heard, so that this ancient and mysterious story may find a place in our hearts and lives. May it shape the way we live, make choices, and set priorities. Speak now, Lord; your servants listen. Amen.***

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Carol

“Away in the Manger”

UMH #217

Responsive Reading

“Jesus Is Born!”

*Leader:* It was a night like any other. The shepherds sat in the darkness, watching over their sheep. The quiet darkness reminded them that the rest of the world was sleeping.

***People (in a whisper):* Jesus is born.**

*Leader:* Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds, and the glory of



but this holy night of nights, we especially shout our thanks and praise, singing:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of goodness and light.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!***

(Please be seated)

Holy are you and blessed is your servant Mary, blessed is the holy child of her womb. Born into poverty and exile, yet, proclaims good news to the poor, and offers freedom to all who are oppressed.

On the night when he was delivered over to death, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of the Word made Flesh among us, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

***Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

Come now, O Spirit of Christ, bless this bread and this wine. May they be for us your body and blood, vibrant with life, healing, renewing, making us whole. As bread and wine are made one with us, may we become one with you, and one in ministry to the entire world. As the One who comes to us this night taught us, so now we pray:

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

COMMUNION: SHARING of the BREAD and the CUP

*The communion bread served is gluten-free so that all may partake of the Holy Sacrament.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

***Almighty and Redeeming God, tonight you have made us one with you by lovingly sending your Son to take on our sins. We thank you for this Word made flesh, revealed to us in the manger and in the bread and wine. Grant that we may find in his birth the new birth which he brings in us, to live out your gospel of love in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Lighting of the Candles

Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

UMH #239, verses 1-3

Benediction

Now, Lord, let your servants go in peace, according to your word,  
for our eyes have seen your salvation.

***Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth!***

Postlude



*May you have a Blessed Christmas!*



**Court Street United Methodist Church**  
215 N. Court St. \* Rockford, IL 61103 \* 815.962.6061  
[www.courtstreetumc.org](http://www.courtstreetumc.org)