



Welcome to Court Street United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24, 2015

9:30 p.m.

Prelude

Various Selections

Ringing of the Bell

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Linda Meyers & Leta Gerber

....The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH # 234, verses 1, 2, 3, 6

(verse 3 Choir only)

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.

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Carol

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

UMH #196

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

Carol

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

UMH #211, verses 1-4

verse 1: All, verse 2: Women, verse 3: Men, verse 4: All

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol

“Lo, How a Rose”

UMH #216

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:39-56

Carol

“My Soul Gives Glory”

UMH #198

verse 1: All, verse 2: Women, verse 3: Men, verse 4: Women, verse 5: All

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Carol	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	UMH #230
Sixth Lesson		Luke 2: 8-14
Carol	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	UMH #238
Seventh Lesson		Luke 2:15-20
Carol	“The First Noel”	UMH #245, verses 1, 2
Eighth Lesson		Matthew 2:1-11
Carol	“In the Bleak Midwinter”	<i>Chancel Choir, Violins</i>
OFFERING Our Gifts and Ourselves	“What Sweeter Music”	<i>Chancel Choir</i>
DOXOLOGY	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	UMH #94

The SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Please stand)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We are the body of Christ.

Christ’s Spirit is with us.

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is always right and proper at all times and in every place to give our thanks, 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.

Communion Music

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Chancel Choir, JuBellation
“O Holy Night” Alexis Kossike, James Marck

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

“Spiritual Christmas”

Mark Nelson Brass Quartet

*Thank you to the following people
for sharing their gifts with us
and helping to make this worship special:*



Chancel Choir

JuBellation

Mark Nelson Brass Quartet

Tristan String Quartet

May you have a Blessed Christmas!



Court Street United Methodist Church
215 N. Court St. * Rockford, IL 61103 * 815.962.6061
www.courtstreetumc.org