

ORDER OF WORSHIP

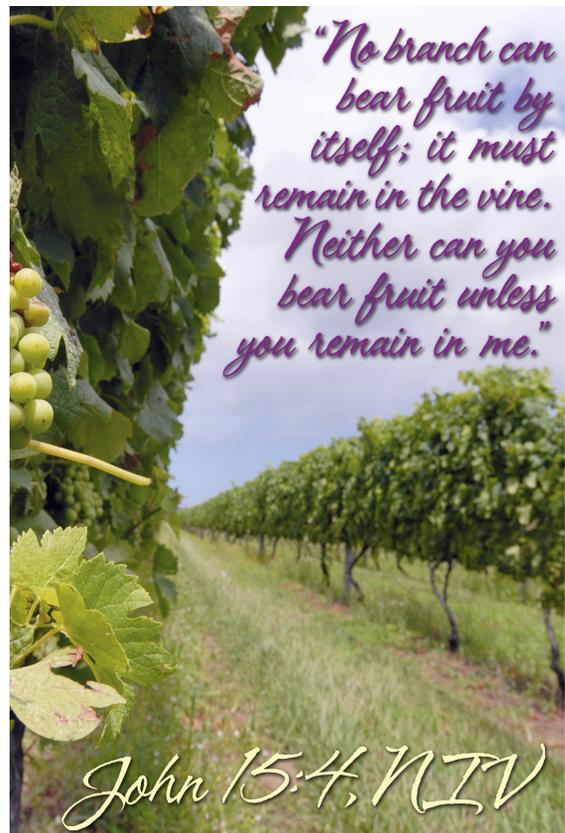
10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

Worshiping

While

We

Walk



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.

*Epiphany Sunday
January 3, 2016*

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

Covenant Renewal Service

Adapted by George Lyons from the Pamphlet Written by John Wesley & First Published in 1780

PRELUDE

“Variations on DUNEDIN”

Ringing of the Bell - Please sign registration sheets and pass to others in your pew.

WELCOME

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

§ OPENING HYMN FWS #2247, verses 1, 2, 4 “Wonder of Wonders”

(Sung to DUNEDIN)

Leader: “Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant which will never be forgotten”
(Jer. 50:5, RSV).

Leader: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us now pray together the **Lord’s Prayer, found in UMH #895.**

§ SCRIPTURE LESSON - New Testament p. 109 of the Blue Pew Bibles

John 15:1-8

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

HYMN OF RESPONSE UMH #700

“Abide with Me”

verse 1: ALL; verse 2: Women; verse 3: Men; verse 4: Women; verse 5: ALL

Leader: My dear friends, fix these three principles in your hearts: (1) that things eternal are more enduring and real than things temporal; (2) that things not seen are as certain as the things that are seen; (3) that upon your present choice depends your eternal destiny. Choose Christ and His ways, and you are blessed forever; refuse Him, and you are undone forever.

And then, my friends, make your choice. Turn either to the right hand or to the left; Christ with His yoke, His cross, and His crown; or the devil with his wealth, his pleasure, and his curse. Then ask yourselves, “Self, you see what is before you; what will you do? Which will you have, either the crown or the curse? If you choose the crown, remember that the day you take this, you must be content to submit to the cross and yoke, the service and sufferings of Christ, which are linked to it. What do you say? Would you rather take the gains and pleasures of sin and risk the curse? Or will you yield yourself a servant to Christ and so make sure the crown?”

Do not delay the matter. If you are unresolved, you are resolved. If you remain undetermined for Christ, you are determined for the devil. Therefore, follow your hearts from day to day. Do not rest until the matter is settled once and for all. And see to it that you make a good choice.

Next, begin your journey with Christ. Adventure with Him. Cast yourselves upon His righteousness. You are exiles from the presence of God and fallen into a land of robbers and murderers. Your sins are robbers, your pleasures are robbers, your companions in sin are robbers and thieves. If you stay where you are, you perish. Christ offers, if you will venture with Him, to bring you to God. Will you say now to Him, “Lord Jesus, will You take me? Will You bring me to God and bring me into the land of promise? With You I will risk myself. I cast myself upon You, upon Your blood, upon Your righteousness.”

This is coming to Christ as your Priest. And by this you now renounce your own righteousness. Do you deeply sense your sins and misery without Christ? Whether we are already forgiven sinners, or still far from God, let us confess together our total dependence on Him.

CONFESSION

People: We acknowledge a deep sense of sin and misery. We see ourselves as sinners in need of a Savior. The Spirit of God has awakened us; a kind of awakening, as it were, in hell. We cry,

“Lord, what am I! What mean these legions round about me? These chains and fetters that are upon me?

“Lord, where am I! Is there no hope of escaping out of this wretched state? I am but dead, if I continue as I am. What may I do to be saved?”

Leader: Being made aware of his sin and his danger, a sinner will look for help and deliverance, but he will look everywhere else before he looks unto Christ. Nothing will bring a sinner to Christ but absolute necessity. He will try to forsake his sins. He will go to prayers, and sermons, and sacraments and search out if there is salvation in them. But all these, though they be useful in their places, are of no help. His duties cannot help him; these may be numbered among his sins. Ordinances cannot help; these are but empty Cisterns. They all tell him, “You knock at a wrong door; salvation is not in us.”

Do you now utterly despair of your own goodness, or do you trust in anything but Christ?

PRAYER

People: Lord, be merciful to me. What shall I do? I dare not remain as I am, and I cannot help myself. My praying will not help me. My hearing will not help me. If I give all my goods to the poor, if I should give my body to be burned, all this would not save my soul. Woe is me. What shall I do?

Leader: You must let your sins go. You must let your righteousness go. Christ came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. He came to seek and to save those that are lost.

Friends, will you now risk yourselves for Christ? You have this threefold assurance:

First, God’s initiative. He has taken the first move. God the Father has appointed and sent Christ into the world to save sinners. Jesus Christ is the One whom God the Father has made our Savior. He is redeeming and reconciling the world to himself.

Second, God’s command. This is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Third, God’s promise. “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious; and whoever believes on him shall not be disappointed.

Now, because we have this threefold assurance of God’s initiative, command, and promise, we may now be bold to risk everything for Christ and to make ourselves totally available to Him.

Leader & People: Lord Jesus, here I am, a lost creature, an enemy to God, under His wrath and curse. Will You, Lord, take me as I am, reconcile me to God, and save my soul? Do not refuse me, Lord, for if You refuse me, to whom then shall I go?

If I had come in my own name, You might well have ignored me; but since I come at the command of the Father, do not reject me. Lord, help me. Lord, save me.

I come, Lord. I believe, Lord. I throw myself upon Your grace and mercy. I trust Your saving death alone to save me. Do not refuse me. I have nowhere else to go. Here I will stay. I will trust You, and rest in You, and risk myself for You. On You I lay my hope for pardon, for life, for salvation. If I perish, I perish on Your shoulders. If I sink, I sink in Your ship. If I die, I die at Your door. Do not bid me to go away, for I will not go.

HYMN OF RESPONSE UMH #355

“Depth of Mercy”

verse 1: ALL; verse 2: Women; verse 3: Men; verse 4: Women; verse 5: ALL

COMMITMENT

Leader: Yield yourselves now to the Lord. As His servants, give up the rule and government of yourselves to Christ. “Do not yield the parts of your bodies as tools of unrighteousness to continue in sin. Instead yield yourselves fully to God, as those who have been made alive from the dead. And yield every part of your whole body as instruments of righteousness to God.” “Don’t you know that you make yourself a slave to obey whoever or whatever you yield yourself to? You are God’s servants; obey Him!. Yield yourselves so fully and finally to the Lord that you may henceforth be only the Lord’s.

Those who yield themselves to sin and the world say in their hearts, “Sin, I am yours; World, I am yours; Riches, I am yours; Pleasures, I am yours.”

Rather, with the Psalmist, let us say to the Lord:

AFFIRMATION

***Leader & People:* I am Yours, My God; I reverence You. I dedicate myself to Your service.**

Leader: In so giving yourselves to the Lord, you affirm that you will be heartily contented that He assign you to your work.

Let Him assign you to your work. Christ has many services to be done; some are more easy and honorable, others more difficult and menial.

Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests; others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves, as when He requires us to feed and clothe ourselves. Indeed, there are some spiritual duties that are more pleasing than others; as to rejoice in the Lord, to bless and praise God. These are the sweet works of a Christian.

But then there are other works. In these we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves, as in enduring the sins and shortcomings of others, reproving others for their sins, withdrawing from their company; as in witnessing against their wickedness. Confessing Christ and His name is never easy when it costs us shame and ridicule. It is never easy to sail against the wind, swim against the tide, surrender our rights and privileges because Jesus Christ is our Lord.

See what it is that Christ expects and then yield yourselves to His whole will. Do not think of making your own terms with Christ; that will never be allowed. Let us now approach Christ in prayer.

***Leader & People:* Lord Jesus, if You will receive me into Your house, if You will but accept me as Your servant, I will not stand upon terms. Impose on me whatever condition pleases You; write down Your own provisions; command me to be or do whatever You will; only let me be Your servant.**

Make me what You will, Lord, and set me where You will. Let me be a vessel of silver or gold, or a vessel of wood or stone; so I may be a vessel of honor. I am content. If I am not the head, or the eye, or the ear, one of the nobler and more honorable instruments You will employ, let me be the hand, or the foot, as one of the lowest and least esteemed of all the servants of my Lord.

Leader: Lord, put me on whatever task You will; rank me with whom You will.

***People:* Put me to doing; put me to suffering.**

Leader: Let me be employed for You, or laid aside for You, exalted for You, or trodden under foot for You.

People: Let me be full; let me be empty.

Leader: Let me have all things; let me have nothing.

People: I freely and heartily resign all to Your pleasure and disposal.

Leader: Friends, such a commitment to Christ as you have now made is the essence of Christianity. When you have chosen God to be your portion and happiness; when you have laid all your hopes on Christ, casting yourself wholly upon the merits of His righteousness; when you have thoughtfully and heartily resigned and given up yourselves to Him; then you are Christians indeed, and never till then. Christ will be the Savior of none but of His servants. He is the Author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him. Christ will have no servants but by consent. His people are a willing people, and Christ will accept of no consent but in full to all that He requires. He will be all in all, or He will be nothing.

THE COVENANT

Leader: And now let us confirm our commitment by a solemn covenant, beginning with the singing of the covenant hymn, **UMH #606, “Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine.”**

Leader: Search your hearts whether you either have already, or can now freely, make this commitment to God in Christ.

First, consider what your sins are and examine whether you can resolve to forego them all. Consider what His laws are — how holy, strict, and spiritual, and whether you can, upon deliberation, choose them all as the rule of your whole life.

Second, compose your spirits into the most serious frame possible, suitable to a transaction of so high importance.

Third, lay hold on the covenant of God and rely upon His promise of giving grace and strength, for only through these will you be enabled to perform your promise. Do not trust your own strength, but take hold on His strength.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. Having engaged your hearts, opened your mouths, and subscribed with your hands to the Lord, resolve in His strength never to go back.

Fifth and last, being thus prepared, in the most solemn manner possible, as if the Lord were visibly present before your eyes, bow and open your hearts to the Lord.

Leader & People: O most holy God, we humbly beg You, accept the poor prodigals prostrating themselves at Your door. All of us were once, or are even now, far from You because of our sins. We are all by nature worthy of death, and we made ourselves a thousand times worse by our wicked practices. But out of Your infinite grace You have promised mercy to us in Christ, if we will only turn to You with all our heart. Therefore, since we have heard the call of the gospel, we now come, throw down our weapons, and submit ourselves to Your mercy.

And because You require, as the condition of our peace with You, that we should put away our idols, we here and now from the bottom of our hearts renounce them all. We firmly covenant with You not to allow ourselves to continue in any known sin. We will, instead, conscientiously use all the means that we know You have prescribed, for the death and utter destruction of everything that corrupts us. We humbly affirm before Your glorious Majesty that it is the firm resolution of our hearts to forsake all that is dear unto us in this world, rather than to turn from You to the ways of sin. We will guard ourselves against all temptations, whether from prosperity or poverty, pleasure or pain, so that they may never draw our hearts away from You.

And since You have, out of Your boundless mercy, offered graciously, to be our God through Christ, we call heaven and earth to record this day, that we do here solemnly acknowledge You as the Lord our God.

And now, speaking not only as one in this sacred assembly, but speaking for myself alone, I do take You, O Eternal God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to be my God. Be my portion. I do give up myself, body and soul, to be Your servant, promising and vowing to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

O blessed Jesus, I come to You hungry, wretched, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy to wash the feet of the servants of my Lord, much less to be solemnly married to the King of Glory. But since such is Your unparalleled love, I do here with all my power accept You and take You for my Head and Husband, to love, honor, and obey You before all others, and this to death. I renounce my own worthiness and do here acknowledge You as the Lord my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and do here take You for my only Guide. I renounce my own will and take Your will for my law.

And since Your word has told me that I must suffer with You if I am to reign with You, I do here covenant with You to accept my lot, as it falls, with You and by Your grace to risk everything for You. It is my purpose that neither life nor death shall part You and me.

Now, Almighty God, Searcher of Hearts, You know that I make this covenant with You this day, without any known deception or reservation. I humbly beg You that if You see any flaw or falsehood in my resolve, reveal it to me and help me to put it right.

All stand and say in unison:

And now, I praise You, O Father God, whom I shall be bold from this day forward to look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to You, Lord Jesus, O God the Son, who loved me and washed me from my sins by Your death and resurrection and who are now my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the Holy Spirit, who by Your almighty power and inescapable presence have turned my heart from sin to God.

O eternal, almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are now my Covenant-Friend, and I, through Your infinite grace, am Your Covenant-Servant. And the Covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Please be seated & turn to page 12 in the front of The United Methodist Hymnal.

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

§ Doxology UMH #94

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Please remain standing as you are able.

We will use Musical Setting A on p. 17 for the sung responses.

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

Communion Music

FWS #2025

“As the Deer”

UMH #593

“Here I Am, Lord”

§ Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #396

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

(Sung to AURELIA)

§ Benediction

Postlude

“Rondeau”

~ Jean-Joseph Mouret

We thank

**Rev. Dr. Norma Lee Barnhart & Rev. Dr. Richard Wang
for sharing their gifts with us today and enhancing our worship.**



We welcome you, member or visitor, as we join in worshipping God this morning. We pray you will be blessed and invite you to return!

The 2016 Altar Flower chart is posted outside the church office on the bulletin board. Sign up now to get your favorite date to honor or memorialize someone you love.

Holy COW (Church On Wednesday)! on Jan. 6th!

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

- Rev. Rhoads' class in the Library - Adults

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

- Dinner by Diane in the Dining Room for only \$3.50/person

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

- Men's Fellowship Group in the Parlor



Help de-green the church on Saturday, January 9th, beginning at 9 a.m. All are welcome & needed as we take the decorations down in multiple locations!

Next Sunday, January 10th, we will be taking a special offering to help us meet our Apportionment. There will be an insert next week to help you understand the importance of this offering. You may make your check out to CSUMC with "Apportionment" on the memo line.

Please note that Road Ranger will no longer be participating in the scrip program, effective December 31, 2015. However, their cards will be able to be used thru 2/28/16.

We are collecting "Board Games", new or used. Anything from "Hi Ho Cherry O" to "Clue". During the cold months the kids will have some indoor activities with board games. Some will stay at Haskell and a few might go home with the students. If you have any questions, please ask Barb Ferry or Elizabeth Tarara. Thanks, Court Street, for your continued monthly support of Haskell School. Nurture & Outreach Committee

Within the next couple of weeks you will see a card insert in your bulletin which will tell you how you can help with this year's Midvale Distribution. It is not possible to buy personal needs products with food stamps. Through One Body Collaboratives, formerly Love INC, we will present 30 households at Midvale with a package of various personal need items. We are so blessed at Court Street UMC with generous people who want to help others.

MINISTRY STAFF AT COURT STREET

The Congregation	<i>Ministers</i>	
Calvin Culpepper	<i>Pastor</i>	cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
Miriam Castro-Rodriguez	<i>Deacon</i>	
Ryanne Ludington	<i>Christian Education Director</i>	RyanneLudington@courtstreetumc.org
James L. Crow	<i>Director of Arts Ministries</i>	JamesCrow@courtstreetumc.org
Teresa Field	<i>Parish Nurse</i>	TeresaField@courtstreetumc.org
James Marck	<i>Director of Music</i>	JamesMarck@courtstreetumc.org
Diane Lutmer	<i>Nursery</i>	
Verlette Gorman	<i>Church Co-Administrator</i>	ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org
Lorelle Wandell	<i>Church Co-Administrator</i>	LorelleWandell@courtstreetumc.org
Derek Coffman	<i>Maintenance Engineer</i>	Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org
Odin Black & Sean Smith	<i>Custodians</i>	

Court Street United Methodist Church

215 North Court Street
Church Office: (815) 962-6061

Rockford, IL 61103
Church Fax: (815) 962-9754

Court St. United Methodist Church at Work This Week

Sunday Epiphany Sunday

- 01/03** **9:00 am** **Sunday School in Room 104/Nursery**
 9:00 **Lamplighters in Room 209**
 10:00 **Worship in the Sanctuary**
 11:15 **Fellowship Time in the Narthex**
- Mon 01/04** **9:00 am** **MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103**
 4:30 pm **SPRC in Room 209**
- Tue 01/05** **8:00 am** **MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103**
 9:00 **Quilters in Room 206**
 9:00 **History & Archives in Room 201**
 9:00 **"Ugly Bag Ladies" in Room 205**
 10:30 **Staff Meeting in Staff Conference Room**
 11:00 **Adult Computers, Computer Lab, 2nd Floor**
 1:00 pm **Jeremiah Executive Board in the Library**
 5:30 **Council Choraleers in the Chapel**
 6:00 **JuBellation Rehearsal in the Choir Room**
 7:00 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room**
 7:00 **Grace Awakening in Room 205 & 209**
- Wed 01/06** **8:00 am** **MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103**
 9:30 **Early Head Start in Room 100 & the Parlor**
 10:30 **UMW Mission Team in Room 209**
 4:00 pm **Holy COW! -- **see announcements****
- Thu 01/07** **8:00 am** **MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103**
 9:30 **Early Head Start in Room 100**
 2:30 pm **Early Head Start in Room 100**
- Fri 01/08** **8:00 am** **MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103**
 10:00 **Early Head Start in Room 100**
 1:30 pm **Early Head Start in Room 100**
- Sat 01/09** **8:30 am** **UMM Breakfast @ Stockholm Inn, 2420 Charles St.**
 9:00 **De-greening of the Sanctuary & Chapel**

Sunday Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

- 01/10** **9:00 am** **Sunday School in Room 104, Nursery**
 9:00 **Lamplighters in Room 209**
 10:00 **Worship Service in the Sanctuary**
 11:15 **Fellowship Time in the Narthex**
 11:15 **Children's Choir in Choir Room**
 1:00 pm **Praisin' & Prayin' Puppets**
 1:00 **Youth Homework 2nd Floor Computer Lab**
 2:00 **Dowel Rod Ministry**
 3:00 **Youth Group in the Youth Center**

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeters: Jay & Perky Heath

Liturgist: Leta Gerber

Ushers: The Team of You & Me

Sound Tech: Ryan Welk

Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Van Driver: Bruce Shindel

Fellowship Hosts: Judy Mehren & Lois McCauley