

ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

Love with God



'It's a Wonderful Life: Believe It'

& Growing in Love

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.

*3rd Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017*

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

WE GATHER to be NURTURED

Prelude

Wachet Auf: Finale

~ *Wayne Wold*

Ringing of the Bell

Please sign registration sheets and pass to others in your pew.

Leader: With God all things are possible. Mary believed this when the angel told her about the special role she would play in the birth of Jesus. Will we believe it?

George realizes he wants to live from ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’

George Bailey

Roger Anderson

§ **Opening Hymn UMH #182**

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

Sharing of Joys and Journeys
Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

The Lord’s Prayer, UMH #895

WE ARE NURTURED by GOD’S WORD

Old Testament Reading - p. 663

Isaiah 35:1-10

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn FWS #2129, vs 1

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

The children are invited to come forward as we sing.

Children’s Message

“The Real Thing”

James L. Crow

Hymn - see screens, vs 1

“This Little Light of Mine”

§ Gospel Reading - New Testament p. 57

Luke 1:46-55

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Carol of the Bells

M. Leontovich-Wilhousky

Hark! how the bells; sweet silver bells,
All seem to say "Throw cares away."

Christmas is here, bringing good cheer
to young and old, meek and the bold.

Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song,
with joyful ring, all caroling.

One seems to hear, words of good cheer,
from ev'rywhere filling the air.

O, how they pound, raising the sound,
o'er hill and dale, telling their tale.

Gayly they ring, while people sing
songs of good cheer, Christmas is here!

Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas!
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas!

On, on they send, on without end
their joyful tone to every home.

Still, Still, Still

arr. John Rutter

Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.
The Christ child in his crib lies sleeping,
Angels round him watch are keeping.
Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep:
Sweet Jesus, softly sleep,
while Mary sings and gently holds you,

safely in her arms enfolds you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep:
Sweet Jesus, softly sleep.

Joy, joy, joy! Glad tidings of great joy!
For through God's holy incarnation,
Christ is born for our salvation,
Joy, joy, joy! Glad tidings of great joy!

Angels' Carol

John Rutter

Have you heard the sound
of the angel voices
ringing out so sweetly,
ringing out so clear?

Have you seen the star
shining out so brightly
as a sign from God
that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news
that they bring from heaven

to the humble shepherds
who have waited long?

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace
in the winter's stillness,
like a gentle snowfall
in the gentle night;

He is come in joy
like the sun at morning
filling all the world
with radiance and with light.

He is come in love
as the child of Mary;
in a simple stable
we have seen his birth.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing 'Peace on Earth'.

He will bring new light
to a world in darkness,

like a bright star shining
in the skies above.

He will bring new hope
to the waiting nations
when he comes in purity and love.

Let the earth rejoice
at the Savior's coming;
let the heavens answer
with the joyful morn.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing
'Christ is born'.

Mary, Did You Know?
Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
will one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
will save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy
has come to make you new?

This child that you delivered
will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
will calm a storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy
has walked where angels trod?

And when you kiss your little baby,
you've kissed the face of God.

Oh, Mary, did you know?

The blind will see,
the deaf will hear,
the dead will live again,
the lame will leap,
the dumb will speak
the praises of the lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
is Lord of all creation?

Mary did you know that your baby boy
will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy
is heaven's perfect lamb?

This sleeping child you're holding
is the great I am!

This little Babe

Benjamin Britten - Robert Southwell, arr. Julius Harrison

This little Babe so few days old,
is come to rifle Satan's fold;
all hell doth at his presence quake,
though he himself for cold do shake;
for in this weak unarmed wise
the gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,
his naked breast stands for a shield,
his battering shot are babish cries,
his arrows looks of weeping eyes,
his martial ensigns Cold and Need,
and feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall,
his bulwark but a broken wall;
the crib his trench, haystalks his stakes;
of shepherds he his muster makes;
and thus, as sure his foe to wound,
the angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight;
stick to the tents that he hath pight.
Within his crib is surest ward;
this little Babe will be thy guard.

If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

O Holy Night

arr. John Rutter

O holy night!
the stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till he appeared,
and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks
a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees!
Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine!
O night when Christ was born,
O night divine, o night divine.

Led by the light
of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts
by his cradle we stand.

So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here came the wise men
from the Orient land.

The King of Kings
lay thus in lowly manger,
in all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need,
to our weakness no stranger;
behold your King!
before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
his law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break,
for the slave is our brother,
and in his Name
all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy
in grateful chorus raise we,
let all within us
praise his holy Name.

Christ is the Lord,
then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Ding Dong Merrily on High

arr. Chester L. Alwes

Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!
Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!
Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!

Ding, dong, merrily on high;
in heav'n the bells are ringing.
Ding, dong, verily the sky
is riv'n with angel's singing.

Gloria, gloria, gloria, hosanna in excelsis.

E'en so here below,
let steeple bells by swungen,
priest and people sungen.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis.

Pray, you dutifully prime,
your matin chime, ye ringers,
may you beautifully rhyme
your evetime song ye singers.

Gloria, gloria, gloria, hosanna in excelsis.

“It’s a Wonderful Life: Believe It”

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

WE RESPOND to GOD’S WORD

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves
Offertory

§ **Doxology UMH #94**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE

§ **Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #203**

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

§ Benediction

Creator God, whose spirit in the blessed Mary evoked her song of praise, that she should bear the Savior of your people, enable us to join her in glad celebration of joy and anticipation, that we, like her in humility and devotion, may also be bearers of your word and spirit incarnate in our lives. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

~ *Waldo Beach, ed., Christmas Praise: Worship Resources for the Seasons of Christmas (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991), 34.*

Postlude

Veni, Emmanuel
(Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel)

~ *Marilyn Biery*

Facetime by the Big Bell

This week concludes our exploration of the familiar Advent Tune, Wachet Auf. The organ prelude immediately preceding our worship service features a selection from a suite of pieces inspired by this tune. Arranged by Wayne L. Wold, an active Professor, College Organist, and Music Department Chair at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, this third week's selection, the Finale, is based on the phrase, "Awake, Jerusalem, Awake!" As you prepare your heart and mind for worship, we hope you will enjoy this selection in your moment of meditation.

We thank the following people for making this musical offering possible:

Jack Armstrong, *Director*

Chancel Choir of Court Street UMC

Andrew Mertzenich, *Organist*

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeters: Fernhande Kossike, Natasha Kalte

Ushers: The Davis/Dienhart Team

Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Facetime Host: *Help please!!*

Liturgist: Bill Barnhart

Van Driver: Bruce Shindel

Acolyte: Carter Anderson

Sound Tech: Stan Tunnell



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!

Granny's Corner was a new addition to the Christmas Bazaar as an additional effort to raise money for UMW. We have some treasures left over that you might want to consider for Christmas gifts. **Come to the lower level Dining Room after worship today to do some more shopping.**

Please find the envelope in this bulletin for United Methodist Students. I forgot to include the envelopes when we celebrated Student Sunday on November 26th. This special offering funds scholarships and student loans for qualified and deserving United Methodists. We strengthen our denomination when we help students to pursue their educational goals as they discern God's plans for them. Please give as you are moved to do so.

Have you begun your Christmas shopping yet? Why not consider Scrip cards for those on your gift list, especially those who are hard to buy for. The current list of Scrip cards, on hand and those usually ordered, is available on the church website (courtstreetumc.org), at the Scrip table, or in the church office. For the complete list, stop at the Scrip table on Sundays. For those who like to go out to eat, consider a restaurant gift card or two. If you choose to order cards it will only take a week or two for them to arrive. Also the \$5 and \$10 cards for Culver's, Beef-a-roo, Backyard Grill, Olympic and Subway make easy stocking stuffers! Please consider Scrip cards whether you are giving them as a gift or using them yourself to purchase gifts or for food needs (Gordon Foods, Valli, Woodmans, Walmart, Sams Club, Pinnon). *The Scrip committee thanks you for your support.*

Reduce Your Stress, Refresh Your Spirit, and Renew Your Soul. Come for the last **30-Minute Worship on Wednesday, December 20th, at Noon in our Chapel.**

When Christmas Hurts: A Blue Christmas Service; Wednesday, December 20, 6:00 p.m. A chapel service of remembrance of lost loved ones, lost direction, and a promise of help by participating in Christmas instead of avoiding it. Special music and warm holiday refreshment. Bring a friend that might be experiencing a loss this season. Service is meant to uplift spirits, not depress.

All are welcome to celebrate Christmas with us:

Christmas Eve AM Worship - Sun., Dec. 24 - 10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Family Worship - Sun., Dec. 24 - 4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Candlelight Worship - Sun., Dec. 24 - 9:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Church is Closed on Monday, Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!

Fair Trade is Gift Giving with a Conscience ~ Shop at JustGoods, 201 7th St.

Court St. United Methodist Church at Work This Week

Sun 12/17 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 am Lamplighters (Adults) in Room 209
- 9:00 'Believe' Study in the Parlor
- 10:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary
- 11:15 Facetime by the Big Bell
- 11:15 Happy Days Youth Activities begin
- 11:30 'Because of Bethlehem' Study in the Parlor
- 3:30 pm 'Because of Bethlehem' Study at 5772 Pepper

- Mon 12/18** 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
2:30 pm YAVO/Haskell in the Gym

- Tue 12/19** 8:30 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
6:00 pm JuBellation Handbell Choir in the Sanctuary
7:00 Grace Awakening in Room 202 & 209
7:00 Chancel Choir in the Choir Room

- Wed 12/20** 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
9:30 Deborah Circle @ Donna Dow's, 7581 W. State St.
12:00 pm 30 Minute Advent Worship in the Chapel
5:30 N IL Wood Turners in the Youth Center
6:00 A Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel
6:00 Praise Band Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

- Thu 12/21** 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
12:00 pm Coat Distribution in the Chapel Narthex
1:00 The Journeymen in the Parlor
2:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
2:30 YAVO/Haskell in the Gym

- Fri 12/22** 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
10:00 Early Head Start in Room 100
10:00 Image Class in the Library & Parlor
1:30 pm Early Head Start in Room 100

Sat 12/23

Sun 12/24 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

- 10:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary

Memory Verse for This Week
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”
Luke 1:46-47



MINISTRY STAFF AT COURT STREET

The Congregation	<i>Ministers</i>	
Calvin Culpepper	<i>Pastor</i>	cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
Ryanne Ludington	<i>Christian Ed Director</i>	RyanneLudington@sbcglobal.net
James L. Crow	<i>Director of Arts Ministries</i>	JamesCrow@courtstreetumc.org
Teresa Field	<i>Parish Nurse</i>	TeresaField@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
Luke Kelsey-Powell	<i>Custodian</i>	
Ryan Welk	<i>Custodian</i>	

Court Street United Methodist Church
215 North Court Street
Church Office: (815) 962-6061
Rockford, IL 61103
Church Fax: (815) 962-9754
www.courtstreetumc.org

You're invited
to
Christmas at Court Street 2017



Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday • December 20

6:00 p.m.

Chapel

*Especially for those who have experienced significant loss
or are dealing with difficult situations in their lives*

Christmas Eve at Court Street 2017

Classic Worship

Sunday • December 24

10:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Family Worship

Sunday • December 24

4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary



Candlelight Service

Sunday • December 24

9:30 p.m.

Sanctuary

*We wish you and yours
a very
Blessed Christmas.*