



Court Street United Methodist Church  
215 North Court Street, Rockford, IL 61103  
[www.courtstreetumc.org](http://www.courtstreetumc.org)

10 A.M. Worship Service  
December 13, 2020  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

OPEN HEARTS...OPEN MINDS...OPEN DOORS



## WE GATHER TO BE NURTURED

*Ring of the Bell - Please use this to begin focusing for worship.*

Prelude "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" *Gregory Hamilton*

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Third Sunday

### Call to Worship

*Leader:* We gather this morning,

***People:* With joy and thanksgiving.**

*Leader:* Keep the fire of your Spirit burning in us,

***People:* And let us hear your prophecies with fresh ears.**

*Leader:* With hearts full of anticipation,

***People:* We await your coming, O Lord.**

***All:* Let us worship the Lord our God.**

Opening Hymn UMH #160

**"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"**

## WE ARE NURTURED BY GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 126

*Leader:* This is the Word of God for The People of God.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Hymn UMH #657

**"This Is The Day"**

Children's Message

*James L. Crow*

Hymn FWS #2129, vs. 1

**"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*Leader:* This is the Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

***People:* Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Priceless Principles!”  
*Rev. Calvin Culpepper*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

Musical Witness  
“Lo, How a Rose ‘Ere Blooming”  
Performed by Verlette Gorman & Lorelle Wandell

**Doxology UMH #94**

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

**WE ARE SCATTERED TO SERVE**

**Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #196**

**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Benediction

May the great Shepherd of the sheep extend his arm to enfold you, may you find the shelter of his love and listen for the guidance of his voice, and may you be led out into green pastures, there to feed as sheep, and to serve as a shepherd for others. Amen.

Postlude

“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”

*Walther Haffner*

**We are collecting a special offering for our Apportionment today.**



Thanks to ALL of you for purchasing and providing funds for the gift cards this year under the Virtual Angel Tree program. Because of your generosity, a gift (Walmart gift card valued at \$20, age appropriate Christian literature, and certificate to request a free Bible) was purchased for 55 children from 17 families in our church neighborhood and in the nearby area. Each child received 1 gift on behalf of the incarcerated parent. Additionally, extra funds were left over to provide a Walmart gift card valued at \$20 for each caregiver. May God bless you all, for it is in giving that we are richly blessed. We ask that you continue to pray for the incarcerated parents and their families.

All our children were provided for, but I was unable to request more children as all in Illinois were assigned by early December. We are sorry if everyone who wanted to participate couldn't, but we are thankful for all that we as a church were able to do this year. Next year, hopefully, we will be able to return to the traditional way of doing Angel Tree.

*Gene & Barb Ferry*

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge card. If you have not, please do so by this Tuesday, December 15th.