



Court Street United Methodist Church
215 North Court Street, Rockford, IL 61103
www.courtstreetumc.org

10 A.M. Worship Service
December 20, 2020
4th 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 "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" *Arr. Lucy Ann Warriner*

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Fourth Sunday

Call to Worship

Leader: Teach us, in this Advent season, to find beauty in simplicity,

***People:* To find richness in plain living, to find self-worth in self-giving,**

Leader: That we may be truly prepared for the day of our Lord's coming,

***People:* Who came not as a mighty king but as a child born in a cowshed, and who gave his life as a servant for our salvation.**

***All:* Grant this, we pray, in his name, Amen.**

—Waldo Beach, ed., Christmas Praise (Louisville, Ky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991), 35

Opening Hymn UMH #211, vs. 1-4

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WE ARE NURTURED BY GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

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

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

Hymn UMH #657

"This Is The Day"

Children's Message

James L. Crow

Hymn FWS #2129, vs. 1

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

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

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

“Christmas: When the Ordinary Encounters the Divine!”

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Musical Witness

“Majestic Aulleluia”

Joel Raney

Performed by JuBellation

&

“Away in a Manger”

Arr. Bernard Dewagtere

Performed by the Northern Illinois Conference of the UMC

Rockford District Clergy Virtual Choir

Doxology UMH #94

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

WE ARE SCATTERED TO SERVE

Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #218

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Benediction

Emmanuel! God is with us!

Postlude

“Tell Out, My Soul (Mary’s Song)”

J. Wayne Kerr



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