

**Parents -Please escort your children to the restrooms.**

**Thank you.**

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

*If you are visiting, we welcome you and ask that you leave information so that we might be in contact with you.*

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

## **WE GATHER to be NURTURED**

*Ring of the Bell*

Prelude

Introit - Kathy Welk, soloist "Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle, Hope

§ **Opening Hymn #211, verses 1, 2, 4, 6**  
**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

## **WE ARE NURTURED by GOD'S WORD**

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

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

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

**Hymn (FWS) #2129 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**

The Young Church Gathers to Worship *James L. Crow*

**Hymn (FWS) #2026 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"**

*Parents: 1st-5th grades may go to the youth center with Mr. Jim;*

*younger than 2nd grade may go to the nursery with Ms. Ryanne.*

§ Second Scripture Lesson Matthew 24:36-44

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

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

Sermon *Ana Kelsey-Powell*

**Hymn of Response (FWS) #2236 "Gather Us In"**

## **The SERVICE of WORD and TABLE**

*Please turn to page 12 in the front of your hymnal.*

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

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves  
Offertory

§ **Doxology #94 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**  
**Please remain standing as you are able after the Doxology.**

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

**Communion Hymn (FWS) #2267 "Taste and See"**

## **WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE**

§ **Hymn of Sending Forth #706 "Soon and Very Soon"**

§ **Benediction**

As we go forth into a world whose margins seem narrower and brightness ever dimmer, let us carry the light of love into those dark places. Let us love extravagantly, abundantly, unabashedly. So that those to whom love is a stranger would find in each of us generous friends. Go now in peace to serve others in love.  
**Amen**

Postlude

Fellowship Time in the Narthex

**We welcome Ana Kelsey-Powell to the pulpit to share her insights with us today.**

**We thank Kathy Welk and Christina Lewis for sharing their musical gifts with us today.**

**We thank Rev. Miriam Castro-Rodriguez for assisting with communion today.**



**Altar Flowers are given...**

...in loving memory of my wife, Dee, by Lynn Davis.

...in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary on November 30th by Mike & Pat Davis.

**Holy COW (Church On Wednesday)!**  
**December 4**



**5:30 - 6:15 p.m.**

- Ministry in the Dining Room  
"Christmas is Not Your Birthday" by Michael Slaughter
- Kids' Choir in the Choir Room - ages 4-13
- Rev. Rhoads' class in the Library - Adults
- Mats for the Homeless in Room 4 across from the Dining Room

**6:15 - 6:45 p.m.**

- Dinner by Diane in the Dining Room  
\$2.50 per person/\$10 max per family



**We welcome you, member or visitor,** as we join in worshiping God this morning. We pray you will be blessed.

**What do you see?** This month we'll focus on the Heraldry of the Apostles. As you are sitting in the Sanctuary facing the altar, you will notice the large wooden screens to the left and to the right of the Chancel, covering the organ pipes. On the top of the screens are shields, ten of which represent one of the Apostles, the eleventh being ornamental.

**Today we will be celebrating United Methodist Student Sunday and taking a special offering to support students through gifts to United Methodist Student Day.** The 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 make your check out to Court Street UMC with "Student Day" in the memo and place it in the envelope in your bulletin.

**Angel Tree, a Ministry of Prison Fellowship,** is a program designed for children whose parent is in prison. This year we have 50 children, many of whom live in our church neighborhood. We buy gifts for the children and give them on behalf of the parent who is in prison. You can help us by: 1) Volunteering to distribute angels following any worship service. 2) Buying gifts for the children (\$15-\$25 each). Do not buy any gifts until you receive your angel. 3) Making a cash donation or a check payable to Court Street United Methodist Church with Angel Tree Ministry on memo line and mailing to Barb or Gene Ferry at 1321 Camp Ave., Rockford, IL, 61103. 4) Shopping for gifts. 5) Organizing and delivering gifts between December 15th and December 23rd. 6) Praying for the prisoners and their families. To receive your angel, please look for an Angel Tree representative following the service in the Narthex. For questions, contact Barb or Gene at (815) 965-6518.

**Give your extra, new Christmas cards to our Jail Ministries for the inmates to use.** Place in the box so marked in the narthex. If you are able to, place a stamp on the envelope(s) to help even more.

**Pick up your free advent booklet "What is Christmas All About?"** in the Narthex to help you in your spiritual journey in understanding God's love for you. May it give you encouragement, comfort, and joy!

**Next to last Sunday to buy Scrip in time for Christmas gifts and to help supply our Emergency Scrip cards for those in need.** Smaller denominations are now available while supplies last: \$5 for Barnes & Noble and Pizza Hut; \$10 for Target and Walmart; not to mention those that are always available on our Scrip sheet. See Jan Marlow in the narthex or come to the church office during the week.

**Keep your insert "Christmas at Court Street 2013"**  
**so you can participate in all of our Christmas activities & services.**  
**Invite your friends & neighbors, too!**

