

Evangelical United Church of Christ

33 South Ellis Street
Cape Girardeau, Missouri
March 2, 2008

Fourth Sunday in Lent

(*Those who are able are invited to stand)

PRELUDE
CHORAL INTROIT
"Thank You Lord" —Choir

GREETING

LEADER: Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

LEADER: Jesus says: If you would come after me, deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me.

*HYMN OF ADORATION #746
"He Keeps Me Singing"

CALL TO CONFESSION

LEADER: In every time, prophets and apostles have come to call the people of God to repentance and newness of life. We too are called to admit our sin and to commit ourselves anew to follow in God's way. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LEADER: We confess gracious God, that we are not worthy of your love for us. You lead us out of the land of slavery; yet when the journey is hard, we long to return to the comfort of our chains. You speak to us through your prophets, telling us how our rebellion hurts and angers you; yet we harden our hearts and close our ears.

PEOPLE: *You come to us in Jesus, revealing your love for all people and suffering pain for us; still we do not turn in love and obedience to you.*

LEADER: We do that which we ought not to do, and we leave undone those things we ought to do. There is no health in us. Sinful and rebellious as we are, we cannot trust in ourselves and the things that we do; we can trust only in your grace.

PEOPLE: *Speak the word, O God, and we shall be made free. Forgive us, receive us, and give us courage to serve you with renewed hearts and wills; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Prayer List

March 2, 2008

In case of hospitalization or surgery please notify our church office. When being admitted to a hospital be sure to tell them that you are affiliated with this congregation. * indicates a new request.

Please note: after six months names will be removed from the prayer list, unless an update is made to the church office.

Leo Amelunke; 09-07 Loyd Bollinger S.G. Coy	Tonya Pobst; 09-07 Paul Propst; 08-07 *Sharon Reif; 03-08	Ratliff Nursing Home Polly Wilmsmeyer
*Family of Reece Dawgson M. Benji Doerhoff; 01-08 Ruby Doughty; 10-07 Joan Hope; 10-07 Mary Huckstep	Calvin Sailer; 01-08 Kaylyn Sneathen; 03-08 Susan Spinks; 01-08 Wesley, Kailey & Kimberley Spinks; 01-08	Fountainbleau Lodge Alta Proffer
*Carol Huebert; 03-07 Frankie Hutson; 11-07 Jaden, 2 yrs old; 12-07 *Ernest & Ida Mae Jordan Robert Juergens; 08-07 Kenny Mehrle	Andrea Truitt; 11-07 LaDonna Wills; 09-07	Lutheran Home Dorothy Cole Frank Maevers, Sr. Leonard Moore Andora Peetz
Cheryl Olson; 01-08 [Mary Huckstep's granddaughter] Helen Owens; 01-08	Please Remember Our Friends at Home	House Bound Ruby Doughty Esther Nussbaum Irene Orlando Helen Owens

Financial Report	General Fund	Memorial General Fund	Memorial Fund	Misc.
2-3-08	\$2,315.50	---	\$25.00	\$159.00
2-10-08	\$1,070.00	---	---	\$125.00
2-17-08	\$370.00	---	---	\$45.00
2-24-08	\$366.22	---	\$20.00	\$164.04
Worship	Attendance		Total	Offering
2-3-08	70		2-3-08	\$2,499.50
2-10-08	48		2-10-08	\$1,195.00
2-17-08	45		2-17-08	\$415.00
2-24-08	35		2-24-08	\$550.26

Welcome first time guests! **We're glad that you are here! We invite everyone** to complete a Communication card (located on the Information Table) and place it in the offering plate. You are important to us and we want to know that you are here.

Evangelical United Church of Christ
Email Address
Web Site
Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Organist
Sound System
Hospitality & Diaconate Visitor
Greeters
Reader
Ushers: Diaconate Members

(573) 335-5611
eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net
www.evangelicalucc-cape.org
Pastor Daniel Johnson
Rev. Ernest Jordan
Beverly Reece
Terry & Mindy Best
Tammy Popp
Linda & Rebecca Schild
Tammy Popp

ASAP Rummage Sale

Please place items for the rummage sale on the stage in the lower auditorium. Lots of help will be needed to price items and set up for the sale. For more information contact Carolyn Best or Bonnie Stahlman.

World Day of Prayer

Church Women United will celebrate World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 7th at 9:00 AM at Old St. Vincent's in downtown Cape. **"God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding"** is the topic for the worship service. All the women of EUCC are encouraged to attend.

On the Calendar

- Mar 2 One Great Hour of Sharing
Special Mission Offering
4th Sunday in Lent
- Mar 5 Lenten Meal—UCC Group, 5:30 PM
Open Gym, 7:00 PM
- Mar 6 Mary Martha Circle, 1:30 PM
Choir, 7:00 PM
- Mar 8 ASAP Rummage Sale
MO Mentoring, 10 AM—1 PM
(in multi-purpose room)
- Mar 9 Ham Supper tickets go on sale.
- Mar 11 Friendship Circle, 7:00 PM



SILENCE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: Do not fear. I say to you in the name of Jesus Christ: Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has made you free. Anyone who is in Christ Jesus is a new creation; the old has passed away. Behold, the new had come. Thanks be to God!

*PASSING THE PEACE

LEADER: Let us celebrate this great grace of forgiveness by offering to one another a sign of Christ's peace. **The peace of Christ be with you.**
ALL: *And also with you.*

*GLORIA #813

LEADER: Let us sing praise to God.
ALL: *We will continually praise God's holy name.*
ALL SING: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.*
Amen, Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

LEADER: The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE: *And also with you.*
LEADER: Let us pray. Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READING of SCRIPTURE I Samuel 16:1-13 Page 443

PSALMS 23 — The Message

ALL: *God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction. Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing. Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.*
Amen.

SCRIPTURE CONTINUED
Ephesians 5:8-14 Page 1822

GOSPEL BY DRAMA
John 9:1-41 Page 1664

SERMON — Pastor Daniel Johnson
“**Afraid of the darkness, Dazzled by the light**”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology

ALL: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

ANTHEM —Choir
“**Room At the Cross for You**”

GENERAL PRAYER

Let us pray. Faithful God, we list up our prayers for the world still so full of suffering, still so shadowed by crosses, knowing you have loved your creation from the beginning. We join our hearts with yours in love for the world, and we offer ourselves to you; through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING INVITATION

LEADER: The generous hand of God touches us at times when we least expect it. Let God's spirit touch your heart with compassion, healing, and generosity. Let us give to God out of the rich blessings we have already received.

*PRAISE RESPONSE #815

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. **Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.** Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Gracious Lord, as followers who are blinded by your wondrous light, we seek to be amplified beacons of your astonishing light to others. Help us to reflect your love by listening to your call and to your will for our lives. In gratitude, we dedicate these gifts in the name of the one who lived, died, and rose for our sake, Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Based on John 9:1-41]

HOLY COMMUNION

See ivory insert.

*HYMN OF PARTING #795

“**We Are So Blessed**”

*COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

LEADER: Seeing that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, the **faithful of all times who have given themselves to God's loving will, let us run with** patience the path God sets before us, encouraged by the love of God, renewed by the grace of Christ, and empowered by the presence of the Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

CHORAL EXTRAIT

“**Praise the Name of Jesus**”

POSTLUDE

BREAKING OF BREAD and POURING WINE

LEADER: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.
The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

CALL TO SUPPER

LEADER: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and was raised for you.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

LEADER: The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

PEOPLE: Amen!

LEADER: The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

PEOPLE: Amen!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LEADER: Let Us Pray.

ALL: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 2, 2008

*The Promise
of Easter*



HOLY COMMUNION
for
Evangelical United Church of Christ
33 S. Ellis
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
March 2, 2008

*INVITATION

LEADER: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

ALL: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

LEADER: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of **Christ and to share in the community of God's people.**

*COMMUNION PRAYER

LEADER: God be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

LEADER: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: We lift them up to God.

LEADER: Let us give thanks to God most High.

PEOPLE: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

LEADER: We give thanks, Holy One, almighty and eternal God, always and everywhere, through Jesus Christ, the only one begotten by you before all time, by whom you made the world and all things. We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and for calling us to be your people. Although we rebelled against your love, you did not abandon us in our sin, but sent to us prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. Above all, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, our only Savior, who is the way, the truth, and the life. In the fullness of time, you came to us and received our nature in the person of Jesus, who in obedience to you, by suffering on the cross, and being raised from the dead, delivered us from the way of sin and death. We praise you that Jesus now reigns with you in glory and ever lives to pray for us.

Because you have come to us in Jesus Christ, enduring the cross so that we might know eternal life, it is right that we should give you thanks and praise.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and gathers us from every people to unite us in one holy church.

Therefore, with the entire company of saints in heaven and earth, we worship and glorify you, God Most Holy.

ALL: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

LEADER: For in the night of betrayal, Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said: **"Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."** In the same way, also after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving you thanks, gave it to them and said: **"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

ALL: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

LEADER: Holy One, show forth among us the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, to sanctify us and your entire church through these holy mysteries. Grant that all who share the communion of the body and blood of our risen Savior may be one in Jesus Christ. May we remain faithful in love and hope, until the perfect feast with our exalted Savior in the external joy of your heavenly realm.

ALL: Gracious God, accept with favor this our sacrifice of praise, which we now present with these holy gifts. We offer to you ourselves, giving you thanks for the perfect offering of the only one begotten by you, Jesus Christ our Savior: By whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you eternal God, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

LEADER: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us:

ALL: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen."