

Evangelical United Church of Christ
 33 South Ellis Street
 Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 December 2, 2007
 First Sunday of Advent
 (*Those who are able are invited to stand)

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT
 "Now We Sing of Christmas" —Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of God!"

PEOPLE: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

LEADER: We are built to be a community that is bound firmly together.

ALL: We give thanks to you, O God, for you are worthy to be praised!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Chrismons will be hung during the readings. The word 'Chrismon' comes from joining two words together: Chris(t) and Mon(ogram). A Chrismon, then, is a symbolic representation of Christ.

OPENING PRAYER: Carolyn Best

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE: Maxine Hale

Hang the MANGER Chrismon: The cave, or stable, in which Christ was born. It reminds us of his lowly birth.

CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA: Cayleigh Bolton

LESSONS OF CHRISTMAS: Gary Metje

Hang the SHEPHERDS STAFF: Shepherds were common folk that were told of the birth of Christ. As our Savior, Jesus is the good shepherd. Seeing the staff gives comfort and guidance to the sheep.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG #277, vs. 1

Hang the ANGEL Chrismons: Messengers who announced the birth of Christ

Prayer List

December 2, 2007

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	Tonya Pobst; 09-07	
Loyd Bollinger	Paul Propst; 08-07	Ratliff Nursing Home
Tom Boston; 07-07	Kaylyn Sneathen; 08-07	Polly Wilmsmeyer
S.G. Coy	Mark Spinks; 11-07	
James Dickison; 10-07	Susan Spinks; 11-07	Fountainbleau Lodge
Michael "Benji" Doerhoff	Wesley, Kailey &	Alta Proffer
[In Iraq]; 08-07	Kimberley Spinks; 11-07	
Ruby Doughty; 10-07	Harold Stahlman	Lutheran Home
Joan Hope; 10-07	Karen Stephens; 05-07	Dorothy Cole
Frankie Hutson; 11-07	Marjorie Thompson; 05-07	Frank Maevers, Sr.
Ernest & Ida Mae Jordan	Andrea Truitt; 11-07	Leonard Moore
Robert Juergens; 08-07	LaDonna Wells; 09-07	Andora Peetz
Frank Maevers; 07-07		
Kenny Mehrle		House Bound
Betty Metcalfe; 07-07	Please Remember	Ruby Doughty
Esther Nussbaum; 10-07	Our Shut-Ins	Esther Nussbaum
Helen Owens; 11-07		Helen Owens

Financial Report	General Fund	Memorial General Fund	Memorial Fund	Misc.
11-4-07	\$1,642.00	\$20.00	---	\$77.00
11-11-07	\$1,796.00	---	---	\$39.00
11-18-07	\$2116.16	\$80.00	\$135.00	\$80.00
11-25-07	\$1,088.10	\$25.00	\$280.00	\$9.00
Worship	Attendance		Total	Offering
11-4-07	56		11-4-07	\$1,739.00
11-11-07	45		11-11-07	\$1,835.00
11-18-07	68		11-18-07	\$2,411.16
11-25-07	52		11-25-07	\$1,402.10

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	(573) 335-5611
Email Address	eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net
Web Site	www.evangelicalucc-cape.org
Pastor	Pastor Daniel Johnson
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Ernest Jordan
Organist	Beverly Reece
Sound System	Terry & Mindy Best
Hospitality & Diaconate Visitor	Bonnie Wilkening
Greeters	Bill & Rhonda Bolton
Reader	Jennifer Stahlman
Ushers: Carolyn Best, Rhonda Bolton, Louis Geldmacher, Maxine Hale, Kaye Lee, Gary Metje, Helen Owens, Tammy Popp, Beverly Reece, Calvin & Verla Sailer, Rebecca, Tom & Linda Schild, Brian Stahlman, J.D. & Joyce Treadwell, & Bonnie Wilkening	

Cookie Walk

Join us downstairs after church, today for our annual Cookie Walk. It is sure to be a lot of fun.

Mary Martha

All the ladies of the church are invited to the Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 6th at 12:00, noon. The Mary Martha Circle will be the hostesses with Maxine Hale presenting the program.

Piano Recital

Sarah Elfrink will have a piano recital on Sunday, December 9th at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

On the Calendar

- Dec 5 Open Gym, 6:30 PM
Bible Study, 6:30 PM
- Dec 6 Mary-Martha Christmas Luncheon
Choir Practice, 7:00 PM
- Dec 8 MO-Mentoring, 10 AM—1 PM
- Dec 9 Caroling, 2:30 PM
Pop's Pizza, 5:00 PM
L. Elfrink—3:00 PM Sanctuary
- Dec 11 Friendship Circle, 7:00 PM
- Dec 16 Sunday School Christmas Program
& Visit from Santa, 6:30 PM
Jamaican MM, 3:00 PM
- Dec 17 Council, 7:30 PM
- Dec 18 Diaconate, 6:30 PM
- Dec 21 Alternative School Christmas
Breakfast

Hang the IOTA CHI: The first letters of the Greek words for Jesus and Christ
Hang the CHI RHO: The monogram derived from the first two letters of the Greek word Christos, meaning Christ.

THE SANCTUARY EVERGREENS: Grace Coy
Place the holly on the altar.

SPECIAL MUSIC: **"The Holly and the Ivy"**

THE CHRISTMAS TREE: Jennifer Stahlman
Hang the CHRISTMAS TREE: An evergreen tree, representing everlasting life. Light the tree.

SPECIAL MUSIC: **"O Christmas Tree" Veronica Spencer**

Hang the STARS: The five-pointed star usually accompanies the scenes of the Nativity, and is symbolic of the Epiphany. The six-pointed star is the Star of David, a reminder of Jesus' Hebrew heritage and his direct ancestor, King David.

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA: Bonnie Stahlman

THE PARAMENTS AND ADVENT COLORS: Veronica Spencer
Hang the CROWN: Jesus is the ruler of Kings. His birth brought a new order to life.

*CONGREGATIONAL SONG #245, vs 1
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

THE ADVENT CANDLES: Bonnie Stahlman
Hang the CANDLE Chrismon: "Candles are a source of light, which covers darkness. Candles also represent hope and the presence of God"

THE NATIVITY: Ashley Stahlman
Hang the ROSE Chrismon: A symbol of the Nativity. The flower grew abundantly in the first century. It was first called the white rose when people saw it withstood winter. Later it was called the Christmas rose when it bloomed just at Christmas time.

*CONGREGATIONAL SONG #250, vs 1

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS: Lex Spencer

OFFERING

Men's Choir: "We Three Kings" #288, vs 1

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

O God, you have caused this world to shine with illumination of the true Light. You have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him to reveal to us your glory and grace. As you have given this gift in love, may we receive it with joy. Grant that your Holy Spirit may daily renew us, being regenerate and made your children by adoption and grace. Grant us, we pray, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also reflect that light to a darkened world; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS: Jennifer Stahlman

SPECIAL MUSIC WITH CHIMES: Beverly Reece

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Lex Spencer

Hang the SERPENT: A symbol to remind us of Jesus temptation in the wilderness after his baptism.

Hang the SHELL: Since many of the early Christians were fisherman, the shell became a Christian symbol for the baptism. Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of his ministry, as it does for us.

Hang the FISH: Jesus fed fish to the multitudes. It became a symbol for the church because the Greek word of fish (ichthus) is formed by using the first letter of each word in Greek, which stands for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. Early Christians, who had to worship in secret, used this symbol to point the way to their meeting place.

Hang the BUTTERFLY: Because a caterpillar 'dies' in a cocoon and is 'reborn' as a butterfly, it has become a symbol of new life.

THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS: Sarah Elfrink

Hang the TRIQUETRA: A poplar symbol of the Holy Trinity. The design consist of three equal arcs.

Hang the WHEAT: The primary ingredient of bread.

Hang the LOAVES: Jesus is the Bread of Life. Bread is used in communion to represent His body.

Hang the CUP: The vessel used in Holy Communion.

Hang the CROSSES: The Latin cross is the long upright. The most widely used form of the cross among Christians. The Greek cross, all extensions of equal

length. Much uses by the early Greek artist. The Maltese cross, the points represent the Beatitudes, also an emblem of John the Baptist.

Hang the ANCHOR CROSS: This cross is carried over from the days of Christian persecution. Christians saw hope in the symbol.

THE BLESSING: Bonnie Stahlman

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

LEADER: Loving God, we give you thanks for the season of Advent that reminds us that your love stopped at nothing to save us and claim us as your own. Keep us awake during this season so that we may be able to receive all that your Holy Spirit wants to offer us. Speak to us now. Fill us with your power and your grace. Let us leave here a changed people willing and ready to be your light in the world. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

LEADER: Christ came so that our sins may be forgiven and so that we may be saved through Christ. In full confidence that Christ stands ready to hear, accept and forgive our sins, let us confess them now, first silently and then together:

Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*ALL: Forgiving God, we confess to You that there are times when we would rather stay asleep in sin instead of awakening to live in your light. We confess that we would rather be people who do not lay aside the works of night. We do not trust that your armor of light is sufficient for us. Instead, we quarrel, we are jealous and live only to gratify our own desires. Give us courage, O God, to trust in your ways, in your **peace, and in your good. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: **The good news of Advent is Christ's love and forgiveness of sin. Thanks be to Christ who sets us free to love and to serve. Rejoice! For in Christ we ARE forgiven!**

*PASSING THE PEACE

(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbors.)

LEADER: This is a house of God. A place of peace. A place where we befriend one another. Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace. The Peace of God be with you.

PEOPLE: *And also with you.*

*SONG OF PRAISE #245
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

COLLECT OF THE DAY
LEADER: The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE: *And also with you.*
LEADER: Let us pray.

READING of SCRIPTURE
Old Testament Lesson
Jeremiah 23:1-6 Page 1210
Epistle Lesson
Colossians 1:11-20 Page 1832
*Gospel Lesson—Please Stand
Luke 23:33-43 Page 1641

HOMILY
“Learning to Wait” —Pastor Dan Johnson

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION
Please see Insert

*HYMN OF PARTING #244
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL EXTROIT
“”

POSTLUDE

*SONG OF PRAISE #245
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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!*

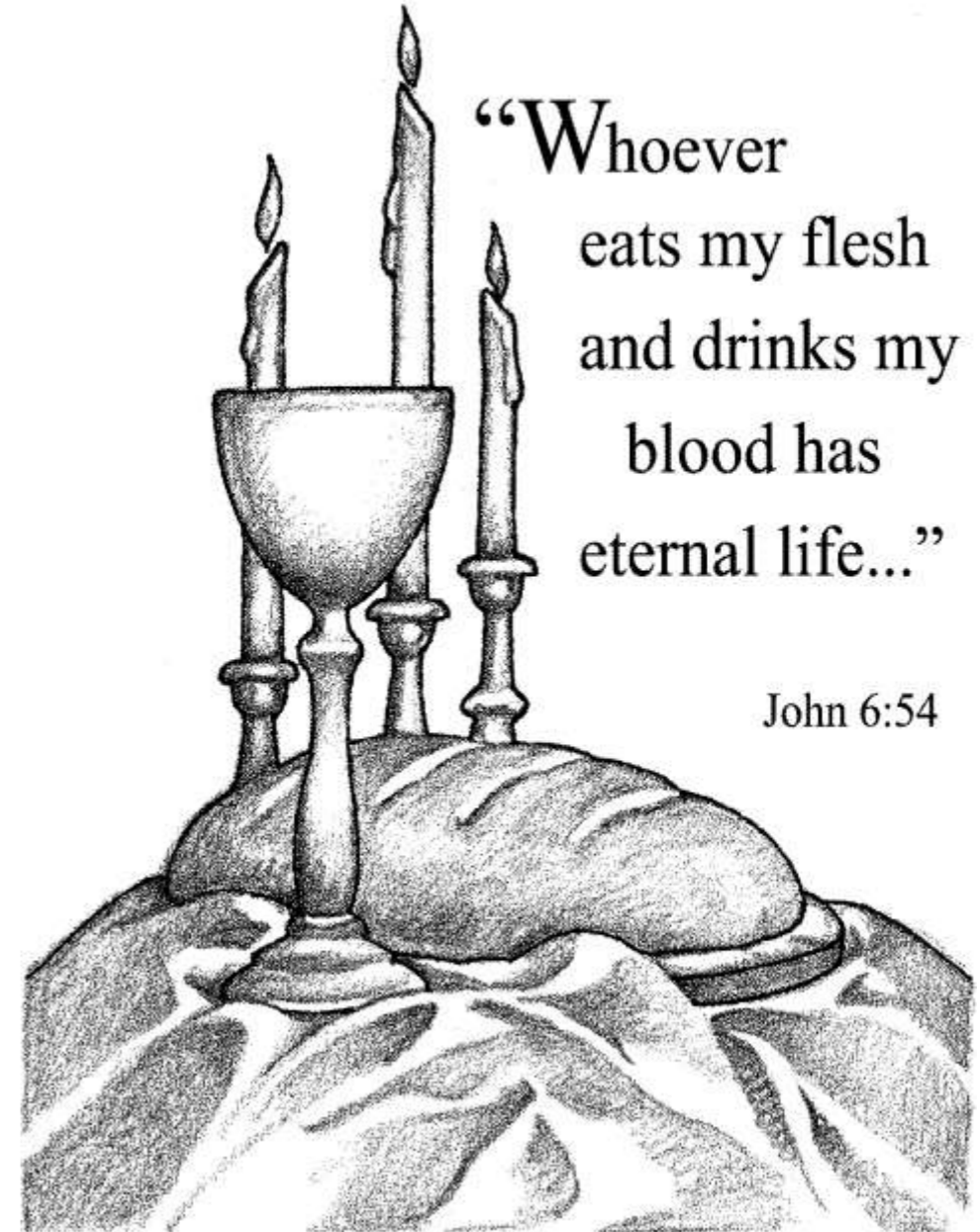
LEADER: The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

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.*



“Whoever
eats my flesh
and drinks my
blood has
eternal life...”

John 6:54

HOLY COMMUNION
for
Evangelical United Church of Christ
33 S. Ellis
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
December 2, 2007

*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

PASTOR: God be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: We lift them to God.

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

PASTOR: 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 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. Because, O God, you faithfully come to redeem your people, we give you thanks and praise. We praise you that Jesus now reigns with you in glory and ever lives to pray for us. 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's death, O God, we proclaim. Christ's resurrection we declare. Christ's coming we await. Glory be to you, O God.

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 forever. 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."