

Evangelical United Church of Christ
 33 South Ellis Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 Second Sunday of Advent
 December 7, 2008
 (*Those who are able are invited to stand)

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT #275 v 1
 “Sing We Now of Christmas”

GREETING

LEADER: In the desert of life, prepare a pathway for God. In the wilderness, make a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; and the glory of God shall be revealed among us.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

ONE: Advent calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All around us people prepare for parties, dinners and presents. These events could distract us from the real reason for our anticipation. On the other hand, they also could prepare us; **they could be the voice crying in a wilderness of materialism: “Prepare the way for the coming of what is really important.”**

ALL: Rather than get lost in the wilderness of distractions, we will let the music and the lights make us sensitive to the voice that is even now calling our name. We will listen for the Word in the words and even in the noise.

ONE: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 40, verses 1 to 11.

*ALL: In this season of hustle and bustle, we are tempted to get frantic and join the panic to shop our way into the holiday spirit. In this moment, we resist that temptation and choose instead to be at peace with whom we are and where we are on this path. We will let this time **prepare us, and we will hear God’s call to be those who prepare the world.***

ONE: On this second Sunday of Advent, we choose to be a peaceful presence in this midst of a frantic season. Therefore, today, we light the first two candles as an act of preparation and a call to Peace.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Light the Advent Candle” vs 1 & 2 —Choir

Prayer List

December 7, 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.*

Joyce Abernathy; 10-08	Anita MacDonald; 09-08	Ratliff Nursing Home
Leo Amelunke; 11-08	Frank, Jr & Ame	Polly Wilmsmeyer
Marilyn Amelunke; 11-08	Maevers; 09-08	Fountainbleau Lodge
Linda Anderson; 05-08	Dana McClard; 11-08	Alta Proffer
Loyd Bollinger	Kenny Mehrle	Lutheran Home
Ian Bolton; 10-08	Bill McMillan; 06-08	Dorothy Cole
*Eldon Chasteen; 12-08	M.D. McMillan; 08-08	Viola Geiser
*Phyllis Chasteen; 12-08	Ester Nussbaum	Frank Maevers, Sr.
“Red” Clifton; 08-08	Hannah Parks; 06-08	Leonard Moore
Bettye Crockett; 06-08	Travis Rister—Iraq; 09-08	Andora Peetz
Eldon Davis; 11-08	Bob & Nora Lee	Auburn Creek
Lexi Edwards; 11-08	Seabaugh; 09-08	Irene Orlando
Aleene Ellinger; 10-08	Brett/Cherie Stembel; 06-08	House Bound
Dean & Carolena	Karen Stephens; 06-08	S.G. Coy
Galloway; 11-08	Marshall Whitworth; 08-08	Mary Huckstep
Joan Hope	Please Remember	Helen Owens
Ernie Jordan; 11-08	Our Friends at Home	
Ida Mae Jordan; 11-08		
Jane Juergens; 09-08		

Financial Report	General Fund	Memorial General Fund	Memorial Fund	Misc.
11-02-08	\$1,815.00	---	---	\$43.00
11-09-08	\$1,674.00	---	---	\$238.00
11-16-08	\$1,627.00	\$20.00	---	\$109.00
11-23-08	\$250.00	---	\$1,751.00	\$17.75
11-30-08	\$242.00	---	---	\$45.00
Worship	Attendance	Scholarship Fund	Total	Offering
11-02-08	46	---	11-02-08	\$1,858.00
11-09-08	68	---	11-09-08	\$1,912.00
11-16-08	63	\$60.00	11-16-08	\$1,816.00
11-23-08	54	---	11-23-08	\$2,018.75
11-30-08	?	---	11-30-08	\$287.00

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
Guest Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Organist
Sound System
Hospitality & Diaconate Visitor
Greeters
Reader
Ushers: All members of the Diaconate

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www.evangelicalucc-cape.org
Pastor Daniel Johnson
Rev. Ernest Jordan
Beverly Reece
Terry & Mindy Best
Bonnie Wilkening
Jim & Marilyn Garner
Roxie Lindsay

Cookie Walk

The Friendship Circle's annual Cookie Walk is today, right after church services.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00 PM for their Christmas program which will be provided by the Entertainment committee. Devotions will be provided by Maxine Hale. Please remember to bring a \$10.00 gift exchange and your wonderful snacks to share with members and guests. The evening is open to everyone, so bring a friend, relative, and neighbor. The more the merrier.

On the Calendar

Dec 7 Sunday Worship, 10:35 AM
Cookie Walk, following service
Dec 9 Friendship Circle, 7:00 PM
Dec 10 Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Open Gym, 7:30 PM
Dec 11 Choir Practice, 7:00 PM
Dec 12 *MO Mentoring, setting up in lower auditorium for Christmas program*
Dec 13 MO Mentoring, 10 AM—1 PM
Lower Auditorium
Dec 14 Fellowship Time, 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Study, 9:30 AM
Sunday School, 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship, 10:35 AM
Christmas Caroling, 2:30 PM
[with pizza after]
Dec 21 Sunday School Program, 6:30 PM
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 PM
Dec 25 Merry Christmas, Office Closed

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

LEADER: Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way before you.

*HYMN OF ADORATION
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #258

CALL TO CONFESSION

LEADER: John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the **coming of God's reign.** **Let us, too, repent, that we may be ready for God who comes to us.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force; how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule that comes slowly through love. We admit, that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of war, hatred, and injustice. We leave little room for you to act in our lives. We turn now to you in repentance and openness to your Spirit. Forgive us, and show us how to clear a path for you. Come to us in your Christ, and reveal your reign on earth. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: God says: Remember these things, O Israel, for you are my servant; you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our sins are forgiven.
ALL: Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

LEADER: The peace of God be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

*ACT OF PRAISE— Lasst Uns Erfreuen
ALL SING: From all that dwell below the skies

Let the Creator's praise arise;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung.
Let God the spirit free each tongue!



*Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Eternal is your glory, God.
Eternal Word we give you laud;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Eternal Spirit we adore,
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

READING OF SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 3:8-15a Page 1896
*Mark 1:1-8 Page 1551

SERMON — Pastor Dan Johnson
“The One, Who Is More Powerful Than I, Is Coming”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH —The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANTHEM

“A Communion Hymn for Christmas” —Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY INVITATION

LEADER: ***“He will feed his flock like a shepherd” (Isaiah 40:11). What a peaceful image Isaiah portrays of God’s love and care! Our gifts to the Mission and Service Fund can promote world peace by feeding the bodies and spirits of the many who are wanting. Let us give generously!***

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #815

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: Loving God, you powerfully proclaim through your prophet John, the need for us to repent of our sins and to prepare the way of the Lord. We place these offerings upon your altar with the knowledge that they will support many ministries that proclaim your good news and lead people on your path. By offering you these generous gifts, we prepare ourselves to be led along your path of grace and love. We pray with your guiding presence. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION INSERT

*HYMN OF PARTING

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #245

BENEDICTION

LEADER: The time of the Promised One is coming! Help us be ready, Lord. Let us bring peace and calmness to this world that is waiting for your Good News. AMEN.

CHORAL EXTROIT

“What Can I Give Him” #263

POSTLUDE

HOLY COMMUNION
Evangelical United Church of Christ
December 7, 2008

Come, for the Meal is Ready!

*COMMUNION PRAYER

PASTOR: The God of glory be with you.

PEOPLE: *And also with you.*

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts in thanksgiving.

PEOPLE: *We lift them towards God.*

PASTOR: Let us offer our thanks to God.

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

PASTOR: It is right that we give you our thanks and praise, O God, creator of all things, visible and invisible. You revealed your glory in the wonders of your creation and in the way you lovingly formed people - male and female - in your image and entrusted them with the ongoing task of revealing your glory in the world. When they failed and turned from your ways, you did not abandon them but spoke tenderly to them through the prophets such as Isaiah. You shaped the conviction in Isaiah's mind that the crushed and broken of the world were invited to shelter close to your heart and be comforted, like lambs by a shepherd; that the oppressed of the world would be liberated by your gracious and loving acts towards them. Did Isaiah catch a glimpse of a light penetrating every nook and cranny of the world until no more darkness was left? A light which shaped itself into a star. A light that startled shepherds, led the wise to a child lying in the straw of a manger, a child warmed by the breath of wondering animals. The child in whom the light of your glory is eternally revealed. Therefore, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name saying:

ALL: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he whose coming we await with joy. Hosanna in the highest.*

[The people may be seated]

PASTOR: Blessed are you O God, and forever blessed are the people of this world since you chose to break into our history in the person of Jesus Christ. He made

your extravagant love so visible in and through all he said and did, especially on the night when he washed his disciples' feet and sat down at a table to share the meal with them. On that night - the night of his betrayal - he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for everyone. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the life of Christ and that we may make that life visible through serving as he served, comforting as he comforted, and loving as he loved. This we pray in his name. Amen

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

PASTOR: 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, for ever. Amen.*

BREAKING BREAD & POURING WINE

PASTOR: The bread we break and the cup we now take are a sharing in the life of Christ. Lamb of God

ALL: *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.*

CALL TO THE SUPPER

PASTOR: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

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

PEOPLE: *Amen!*

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

PEOPLE: *Amen!*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Gracious God, we give you thanks for satisfying our hungry hearts with this holy meal shared in the Spirit with Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Strengthened and refreshed, we go from here prepared to live revealing your image in the world so that love and faithfulness meet together and righteousness and peace kiss. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

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