

Evangelical United Church of Christ
 33 South Ellis Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 Third Sunday of Advent
 December 14, 2008
 (*Those who are able are invited to stand)

PRELUDE
 CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CHORAL INTROIT #282 vs 1-2
 "O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion:

PEOPLE: *Our God reigns!*

LEADER: God comes in the power of love and justice; therefore let us wait with eagerness and worship with joy.

PEOPLE: *God comes to judge the world with righteousness, the people with truth.*

ALL: *Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it. Shout for joy, all the earth!*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

ONE: This season of preparation is half done, and today we light the third candle of our wreath. It reminds us that there is so much about which we should rejoice.

ALL: *In the midst of all the parties and merriment, we are a people seeking true joy in the arms of the One who comes to bring it. Even as night continues to lengthen, we sense the coming of light that will brighten our days, so we listen for the Word in the words of the prophet.*

ONE: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 61, verses 1 to 4; 8 to 11.

[The Scripture passage is read.]

ALL: *We rejoice in the Anointed One who came and who comes. With joy-filled hearts, we join the energy of our life to the life whose birth we anticipate. With Christ, we, too, will bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

ONE: For us, God has replaced our mourning with the oil of gladness, so we light this third candle and name it Joy.

Prayer List

December 14, 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	Frank, Jr & Ame	
Leo Amelunke; 11-08	Maevers; 09-08	Ratliff Nursing Home
Marilyn Amelunke; 11-08	Dana McClard; 11-08	Polly Wilmsmeyer
Loyd Bollinger	Kenny Mehrle	Fountainbleau Lodge
Ian Bolton; 10-08	Bill McMillan; 06-08	Alta Proffer
Eldon Chasteen; 12-08	M.D. McMillan; 08-08	Lutheran Home
Phyllis Chasteen; 12-08	Ester Nussbaum	Dorothy Cole
"Red" Clifton; 08-08	Hannah Parks; 06-08	Viola Geiser
Bettye Crockett; 06-08	Travis Rister—Iraq; 09-08	Frank Maevers, Sr.
Eldon Davis; 11-08	Bob & Nora Lee	Leonard Moore
Lexi Edwards; 11-08	Seabaugh; 09-08	Andora Peetz
Aleene Ellinger; 10-08	*Meta Siemers; 12-08	Auburn Creek
Dean & Carolena	Brett/Cherie Stembel; 06-08	Irene Orlando
Galloway; 11-08	Karen Stephens; 06-08	House Bound
Joan Hope	Marshall Whitworth; 08-08	S.G. Coy
Ernie Jordan; 11-08		Mary Huckstep
Ida Mae Jordan; 11-08	Please Remember	
Jane Juergens; 09-08	Our Friends at Home	
Anita MacDonald; 09-08		

Financial Report	General Fund	Memorial General Fund	Memorial Fund	Misc.
12-07-08 12-14-08 12-21-08 12-28-08	\$2,370.00	---	---	\$95.00
Worship	Attendance		Total	Offering
12-07-08 12-14-08 12-21-08 12-28-08	68		12-07-08 12-14-08 12-21-08 12-28-08	\$2,465.00

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	(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	Kaye Lee
Greeters	Bob & Velma Roloff
Reader	Bill Bolton
Ushers: Gordon Walton, Rhonda Bolton, Barbara Oberbeck, & Van Sander	

ASAP Christmas Caroling

The ASAP Group and anyone else who desires to make a joyful noise unto the Lord will be singing Christmas Carols this afternoon. Make plans to meet at the church at 2:30 PM. We will carpool to the various locations and come together for pizza at the end of the afternoon. Join us and fill your heart with the love of Christ.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting and dinner is fast approaching. Put January 25, 2009 on your calendar. The Mary-Martha Circle will hostess the meeting. *Reports will be due into the office by Friday, January 16, 2009.*

On the Calendar

Dec 14 Sunday Worship, 10:35 AM
ASAP Caroling, 2:30 PM
[with pizza after]
Dec 15 Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
Dec 16 Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 PM
Dec 17 Bible Study, 6:30 PM
Open Gym, 7:30 PM
Dec 21 Fellowship Time, 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Study, 9:30 AM
Sunday School, 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship, 10:35 AM
S. S. Program, 6:30 PM
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 PM
Dec 25 Merry Christmas, Office Closed
Dec 31 New Years Eve
Jan 1 New Years Day, Office Closed
Jan 6 Epiphany Celebration and
"Taking Down the Greens"

CHORAL RESPONSE
"Light the Advent Candle" vs 3 —Choir

INVOCATION

LEADER: Let us pray.

ALL: Creating and sustaining God, in your presence there is life. Living water springs up, and deserts blossom where you pass. Seeking the life that comes from you, we have gathered before you. Our hearts are ready, O God, our hearts are ready. Delight us with your presence, and prepare us for your service in the world; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN OF ADORATION

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #21

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.

PSALM 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negev.
Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheave
Hallelujah!



*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!

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

LEADER: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

I Thessalonians 5:16-24 Page 1841

*John 1:6-8, 19-28 Page 1646

SERMON —Pastor Dan Johnson

“Who Are You?”

ANTHEM

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem” —Choir

GENERAL PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*PASSING THE PEACE

LEADER: Let us share the gifts of God with our neighbors. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound

and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of God be with you.

ALL: *And also with you.*

*SONG OF PRAISE

“What Child Is This?” #281

CALL TO OFFERING

LEADER: Paul says, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”. On this Advent Sunday of joy, let us give joyfully. [1 Thessalonians 5:16].

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #815

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

ALL: *Gracious God, we offer you thanks and praise for this season of anticipation, this season of Advent. As we prepare for the birth of your son, we share our tithes and offerings with the joy and excitement that is common as one anticipates the birth of a new child. Bless these gifts in your Holy Name. Amen.*

*HYMN OF PARTING

“Standing on the Promises” #410

*COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

LEADER: Go now, for you are chosen and sent in the Spirit. Pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. Keep what is good, avoid every kind of evil. To all in need bear witness that the time has come when the Sovereign Lord will save his people. And may God who gives peace make you holy in every way. May Christ Jesus clothe you with salvation and victory; and may the Holy Spirit speak through you with the good news of hope. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
ALL: *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

CHORAL EXTROIT #282 vs 3

“O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful”

POSTLUDE