

Evangelical United Church of Christ
 33 South Ellis Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 December 21, 2008
 (*Those who are able are invited to stand)

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT #289 vs 1
 "Adoration"

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*HYMN OF ADORATION #249
 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Behold! The love of God is made manifest in Mary.

PEOPLE: She was willing to be God's faithful servant.

LEADER: Through her, the Child of God would be born.

PEOPLE: By her faithfulness, she would bring about God's will.

LEADER: Lord, help us be faithful to your call to us.

PEOPLE: Open our hearts and our lives for the blossoming of hope.

AMEN.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

ONE: Love's memory is long. As we come to the last Sunday of Advent, we recall the many times we have been here before with still so much to do and so much love left unexpressed. The Hebrew Bible lesson today recalls a promise to King David, which the church has often understood to be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. Love's promise is often kept in unexpected ways.

ALL: God's love endures forever. In a world where even evergreens turn dry and brittle, God's love is the one reality on which we can rely. Today we prepare for the greatest expression of that love, as we listen once more for the Word in the words.

ONE: A reading from the Second Book of Samuel, Chapter 7, verses 1 to 11; 16.

[The Scripture passage is read.]

ALL: God's love endures forever. Through acts as simple and common as the birth of a baby, God transforms the world, and God's promises are kept. It is that expression of faithful love we anticipate and cele-

Prayer List

December 21, 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
*Bob Amelunke; 12-08	Frank, Jr & Ame	Polly Wilmsmeyer
Leo Amelunke; 11-08	Maevers; 09-08	Fountainbleau Lodge
Marilyn Amelunke; 11-08	*Dana McClard; 12-08	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	Meta Siemers; 12-08	House Bound
Dean & Carolena	Brett/Cherie Stembel; 06-08	S.G. Coy
Galloway; 11-08	Karen Stephens; 06-08	Mary Huckstep
Joan Hope	Marshall Whitworth; 08-08	*Kenny Mehrle
Ernie Jordan; 11-08		Helen Owens
Ida Mae Jordan; 11-08	Please Remember	
Jane Juergens; 09-08	Our Friends at Home	

Financial Report	General Fund	Memorial General Fund	Memorial Fund	Misc.
12-07-08	\$2,370.00	---	---	\$95.00
12-14-08	\$1,682.75	---	---	\$54.00
12-21-08				
12-28-08				
Worship	Attendance	Special Collections	Total	Offering
12-07-08	68	---	12-07-08	\$2,465.00
12-14-08	69	\$95.00	12-14-08	\$1,831.75
12-21-08			12-21-08	
12-28-08			12-28-08	

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
Diaconate
Greeters
Reader
Ushers: Paul Propst, Bill Bolton, Jeff Sneathen, and Alvin Spencer

(573) 335-5611
eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net
www.evangelicalucc-cape.org
Pastor Daniel Johnson
Rev. Ernest Jordan
Beverly Reece
Terry & Mindy Best
Michael Bodine
Velma Roloff
Rhonda Bolton

S. S. Christmas Program

Join us this evening, December 21st at 6:30 PM, for our annual Sunday School Program. Santa will put in a special visit for young children and the young at heart. Refreshments will be cookies, punch, and coffee and hosted by the Union of Concerned Christians. Offering collected during the program will be sent to the Evangelical Children's Home.



Cookie donations are needed for the reception which will be in the lower auditorium.

On the Calendar

Dec 21 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 28 Fellowship Time, 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Study, 9:30 AM
Sunday School, 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship, 10:35 AM
Dec 31 New Years Eve
Jan 1 New Years Day, Office Closed
Jan 4 Epiphany Celebration and
"Taking Down the Greens"
Jan 5 **McAlister's Deli, 4-8 PM**
Fundraiser for Jamaican MM
Jan 6 Epiphany
Jan 7 Open Gym, 7:30 PM
Jan 11 Union of Concerned Christians
Meet & Eat, 6:00 PM

brate this day. It is that promise that brings light to our deepest night.

ONE: So, as we light the fourth candle in eager anticipation of God's greatest promise fulfilled, what else can we do but name this candle Love?

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Light the Advent Candle" vs 4

*Light the Advent candle, four; Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

INVOCATION

LEADER: Let us pray.

ALL: *What surprising ways God has of opening our lives! When we least expect it, God is doing something wonderful with us. We are witnesses to God's incarnation through the young girl Mary, who said yes and offered herself as God's servant. May our willingness to be servants of God be as profound as the witness of Mary. AMEN.*

SENTENCES OF PRAISE

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

RESPONSIVE READING —Luke 1:46-55

LEADER: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

PEOPLE: *From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.*

LEADER: He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

PEOPLE: *He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.*

LEADER: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

PEOPLE: *He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.*

LEADER: He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

PEOPLE: *The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. Amen.*



*GLORIA (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

Romans 16:25-27 Page 1769

*Luke 1:26-38 Page 1588

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO OFFERING

LEADER: The angel told Mary, "For nothing will be impossible with God" [Luke 1:37].

Sometimes we feel discouraged that we live in a world of scarcity and it sometimes seems there may not be enough to go around. There is enough to share; we have enough and we are enough. Let us now worship God with our gifts.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" #815

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

ALL: Dear Father, we admit that Advent can be a challenging time. We are not accustomed to waiting. We live in a world of instant gratification. Yet you call us to wait, to anticipate, and to prepare for the birth of your son on Christmas Day. Now, we are counting the days -- four more days until Christmas Day. This countdown generates a variety of emotional responses -- excitement, joy, relief, and maybe even sadness. Provide us with a sense of calm. May the rhythm of worship and this offering moment calm us so that we are prepared to receive anew the birth of Jesus, the Christ Child. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE

"To God Be the Glory" #56

SERMON —Pastor Daniel Johnson

"For No Word from God Will Ever Fail"

ANTHEM

"Just a Little Farther to Go" —Choir

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LEADER: Thanks be to you, O God, for from the beginning you have entrusted us with your word and have called us to give heart, mind, voice, and love to serving its truth, even as Jesus Christ brought it to life among us. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever. Amen.

*HYMN OF PARTING

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" #251

*BENEDICTION

LEADER: Behold! God is with each of us. Go in peace, bringing the good news to all God's people. Bring the word of hope, peace, love, and joy.

AND ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SAID: AMEN.

CHORAL EXTROIT #289 vs 2

"Adoration"

POSTLUDE

POINSETTIA

Poinsettia's in memory of Bill Brinkopf and his parents, Bill & Emma Brinkopf, from Ramona Brinkopf and Bill, Sandy, and their children.