

Evangelical United Church of Christ

33 South Ellis Street  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
December 23, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(\*Those who are able are invited to stand)

PRELUDE

GATHERING CAROLS

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” #249  
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” #279  
“Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming” #255

CHORAL INTROIT

“What Child Is This?” —Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Jesus, God sent you in mercy to be to be Emmanuel, God-with-us.

PEOPLE: *Teach us the compassion of God.*

LEADER: **Jesus, your life took flesh in the mercy of Mary's womb.**

PEOPLE: *We rejoice in the compassion of Mary.*

LEADER: **Jesus, your family took shape in the mercy of Joseph's welcome.**

PEOPLE: *We give thanks for the compassion of Joseph.*

LEADER: Jesus, your holy family knew the struggle of the poor, when they were refused the mercy of shelter in Bethlehem.

PEOPLE: *Teach us the compassion of God; Lead us in the ways of justice and mercy.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CHILD/YOUTH: The season of Advent continues. Today we shall be lighting the candle of love.

ADULT: No other word so completely describes what we know of our God. For God so loved the world that a child was given.... God's love in human form.

CHILD/YOUTH: We wait in hope and peace, and with joy. [The two purple candles and the pink candle are lit]

ADULT: We light the candle of love to proclaim that God's love is revealed in the Child born in Bethlehem, and we are challenged to proclaim and reveal that same love as we live out our faith here in Cape Girardeau. [The purple candle is lit] We give thanks for a love that passes our human understanding, and we await once more the birth of God's enduring love this Christmas. Amen.

Prayer List

December 23, 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             | Esther Nussbaum; 10-07  | Ratliff Nursing Home |
| Loyd Bollinger                  | Helen Owens; 11-07      | Polly Wilmsmeyer     |
| Tom Boston; 07-07               | Tonya Pobst; 09-07      |                      |
| S.G. Coy                        | Paul Propst; 08-07      | Fountainbleau Lodge  |
| James Dickison; 10-07           | Kaylyn Sneathen; 08-07  | Alta Proffer         |
| <b>Michael "Benji" Doerhoff</b> | Mark Spinks; 11-07      | Lutheran Home        |
| [In Iraq]; 08-07                | Susan Spinks; 11-07     | Dorothy Cole         |
| Ruby Doughty; 10-07             | Wesley, Kailey &        | Frank Maevers, Sr.   |
| Joan Hope; 10-07                | Kimberley Spinks; 11-07 | Leonard Moore        |
| Mary Huckstep                   | Harold Stahlman         | Andora Peetz         |
| Frankie Hutson; 11-07           | Andrea Truitt; 11-07    |                      |
| Ernest & Ida Mae Jordan         | LaDonna Wells; 09-07    | House Bound          |
| Robert Juergens; 08-07          |                         | Ruby Doughty         |
| Kaye Lee; 12-07                 | Please Remember         | Esther Nussbaum      |
| Frank Maevers; 07-07            | Our Shut-Ins            | Helen Owens          |
| Kenny Mehrle                    |                         |                      |
| Betty Metcalfe; 07-07           |                         |                      |

| Financial Report | General Fund | Memorial General Fund | Memorial Fund | Misc.      |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
| 12-2-07          | \$2,512.86   | \$5.00                | \$10.00       | \$137.00   |
| 12-9-07          | \$7,561.66   | \$10.00               | ---           | \$59.00    |
| 12-16-07         | \$1,029.71   | \$10.00               | \$60.00       | \$7.00     |
| 12-23-07         |              |                       |               |            |
| 12-30-07         |              |                       |               |            |
| Worship          | Attendance   |                       | Total         | Offering   |
| 12-2-07          | 77           |                       | 12-2-07       | \$2,664.86 |
| 12-9-07          | 56           |                       | 12-9-07       | \$7,630.66 |
| 12-16-07         | 40           |                       | 12-16-07      | \$1,106.71 |
| 12-23-07         |              |                       | 12-23-07      |            |
| 12-30-07         |              |                       | 12-30-07      |            |

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                              | Gary Metje                  |
| Greeters   | Tammy & Jamie Popp          |
| Reader   | Gary Metje                  |
| Ushers: Randy Coy, Michael Bodine, Bob Roloff & Lori Siebert |                             |



Poinsettias

In Memory of  
Bill Brinkopf by Ramona Brinkopf

Bill Seabaugh, Allen Lee,  
Albert & Minnie Schloss  
by Kaye Lee Seabaugh

Lillian Maevers (Poinsettia Tree)  
By the Maevers Family

### On the Calendar

Dec 24 Candlelight Communion  
Service, 5:00 PM  
Dec 25 Merry Christmas  
Dec 27 Choir Practice, 7:00 PM  
Dec 31 New Years Eve  
Jan 1 Happy New Years  
Jan 27 Annual Meeting & Dinner



\*HYMN OF ADORATION #256  
*"Love Has Come!"*

\*INVOCATION — Pastor Dan

### CALL TO CONFESSION

LEADER: Let us pray: Have mercy on us, O God according to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion blot out our transgressions. Let us take a few **moments of silence to think about our need for God's mercy and forgiveness.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: **"Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains!** For our God comforts the people and will have compassion on the afflicted ones." **Hear the good news: In the name of Jesus, Savior-from-our-sin,** our compassionate God forgives us, and gives us the grace to start over. Amen

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

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

\*SONG OF PRAISE #243  
*"Emmanuel"*

### RESPONSIVE READING

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
*shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.*  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
*stir up your strength and come to help us.*  
Restore us, O God of hosts;  
*show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*  
O LORD God of hosts,  
*how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?*  
You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
*you have given them bowls of tears to drink.*  
You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
*and our enemies laugh us to scorn.*  
Restore us, O God of hosts;  
*show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*  
Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
*the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.*  
And so will we never turn away from you;

*give us life, that we may call upon your Name.  
Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. Amen.*

\*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.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY — Pastor Dan

READING of SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16 Page 1069

Epistle Lesson

Romans 1:1-7 Page 1746

\*Gospel Lesson—Please Stand

Matthew 1:18-25 Page 1497

SERMON

**“Extraordinary Ordinary People”** —Pastor Dan Johnson

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(From the Evangelical Catechism)

LEADER: Who is Jesus Christ?

*ALL: I believe that Jesus Christ—true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary—is my Lord.*

LEADER: What did Christ do for you?

*ALL: He has redeemed, purchased, and delivered me, a lost and condemned creature, from all sins, from death and from the power of Satan.*

LEADER: How did he redeem you?

*ALL: Not with silver of gold, but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death.*

LEADER: To what purpose did he redeem you?

*ALL: That I might be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns in all eternity. Amen.*

ANTHEM —Choir

**“One Small Child”**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS 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.”***

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Minute for Mission — Christmas Fund

CALL TO OFFERING — Pastor Dan

LEADER: Friends, our offering is a sign of trust. In giving we put flesh on our belief that God is indeed Emmanuel. God is with us; we are not alone. Let our offering reflect our faith as we now give for God's work through this church and around the world through the Christmas Fund of The United Church of Christ.

\*PRAISE RESPONSE #815

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*ALL: Today, O God, we are reminded that you are Emmanuel. You are with us, as near to us as our own breath. May these gifts be physical signs of your nearness. May they show your caring. May they be part of your justice. May they touch lives and change hearts. Amen.*

\*HYMN OF PARTING #279

**“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

\*BENEDICTION — Pastor Dan

CHORAL EXTROIT

**“How Great Our Joy!”**

POSTLUDE