

Welcome to Evangelical United Church of Christ!

We welcome you on this Christmas Eve 2007.
We are pleased to share this holy evening.

A word about our Christmas Pageant...

All children are invited to participate in our "walk on" pageant. We are gathering downstairs before the service. Although the pageant is for the children, we strive to include some thoughts for the whole family to consider.

A word about our Christmas hymns...

While we treasure the language and imagery of the New Century Hymnal, we know that the words we learned as children are precious to us as well. We invite you to sing the Christmas hymns with whatever words are most familiar and beloved for you.

Join us later tonight for a candlelight worship
with Candles, Communion, and Choirs
at 11:00pm

and for worship each Sunday morning
8:30am and 11:00am

December 30th—Pajama Sunday!



Evangelical United Church of Christ
204 East Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119
(314) 968-1727
www.evangelicalucc.org

May some starry imperative
lead you to the birthplace of something true,
something wonder-filled,
something that needs you to hold it safe and warm.

May some chorus angels surprise you in the night
with a song unbelievably beautiful
about something unimaginably good.

May strangers wise and shepherd-like
bring you the gifts
which are born of wisdom and vigilance.

May Christ be born to you,
be born in you,
be born for a world beyond Herod and Caesar.

- Marilyn Stavenger



Evangelical
United Church of Christ
December 24, 2007
Christmas Eve Family Worship
5:30pm

148 "What Child Is This" Greensleeves

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this, the angels sing,
is Christ, God's holy offering;
Haste, haste your praise to bring
the babe, the child of Mary!

Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, though meek and mild,
has come with God's salvation.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the mother sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the child of Mary!

132 "Joy to the World!" Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, and wonders of His love.

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.

Refrain

Anthem "Born, Born in Bethlehem" Donald Moore
Children's Choir
Hannah Surmon and Anna Dodson, Soloists

Invocation

Arnold Kenseth, adapted

One: O Holy One,
Word made flesh,
eternity captured in them,
heaven-born in a manger,
light in the darkness,

Many: **You surround us with mercy
and hold us with love.**

One: We run with the shepherds
and kneel with the kings.

Many: **We stand in the presence of angels
and witness the mystery of incarnate love.**

One: Let your flesh be our flesh,

Many: **your spirit our spirit,**

One: your power our power,

Many: **your love our love.**

One: In the spirit of the Christ child, we pray.

Many: **Amen.**

*Hymn 136

"Jesus, Jesus"

Traditional

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a beautiful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, the child will bring;
listen, while the angels sing:
Glory, Glory, Glory! Let the heaven's Ring!

Anthem

Jazz Gloria Sleeth/Thompson
God's Comma, Youth Band

Jesus is the love between you and me.
That's where Jesus is, O come and see. Jesus. Jesus.

The Pageant

"An Untraditionally Traditional Pageant– Take 3"
Jeff Davis, Sue Schindel and Erik Soell
and our children!

Where is Jesus, where's the babe?
The one who heals, the one who saves?

Hymn 124

"Away in Manger" Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.**

Prayer

Nativity Gift List, Heather Johnston,
Shine On, Star of Bethlehem

Dear God,
please give to us

the unquestioning faith of Mary
the tolerance of Joseph
the patience of the donkey
the kindness of the innkeeper
the reverence of the oxen
the joy of the angels
the obedience of the shepherds
the perseverance of the wise men
the Christ-child in our hearts today

Anthem

Where is Jesus, where's the babe? Jim Ford
Folk Ensemble

The one who heals, the one who saves.
Where is Joseph, and Mary?
Where's the king who'll set us free? Jesus. Jesus.

Where's the star, where's the cradle?
Where are the wise men and the stable?
Where are the shepherd, where are the sheep?
Where's the Messiah who will bring us peace? Jesus. Jesus.

Where are the Angles, where are their songs?
How long will we wait, how long, how long?
Where in Bethlehem, where in the world
Is the one who comes for all boys and girls? Jesus. Jesus.

Where is the night and the silence it will bring?
Where are the hymns that the faithful will sing?

Sharing our Gifts

*As the ushers pass the offering plates,
and we share our gifts this evening,
we are invited to join in singing familiar carols:*

125 "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee,
God, our world now entering.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**