



# Fourth Sunday of Advent 21 December 2008

Following the God made known  
in the life and teachings of Jesus...

## Welcome and Announcements

## Advent Moment for Mission

\*Hymn 116 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"  
tune: Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Child of God appear.

*Refrain:*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And help us in that way to go.

*Refrain*

O come, O Day-spring,  
Come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;  
Love stir within the womb of night,  
And death's own shadows put to flight.

*Refrain*

O come, Desire of Nations,  
Bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

*Refrain*

## \*Lighting the Advent Candle

### Reading

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent,  
we light a candle for love.  
Love surpasses the secure locations we would choose,  
the holy nests in precarious places  
and roots in the fragile.

## Welcome!

### A word about diversity:

We strive to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity.

### A word about children:

We love children, babies, and teens and we welcome all ages to share worship with us. Professional childcare is available throughout the morning for those who prefer. Activity folders (available in the Narthex) allow children of all ages to respond creatively to worship. A playtime for preschool age children is offered after the Chancel Steps at the 11:00 a.m. service.

### A word about special needs:

Special seating is available as needed. We are happy to provide transportation to worship and special activities. Please let us know how we can help make this worship experience more accessible.

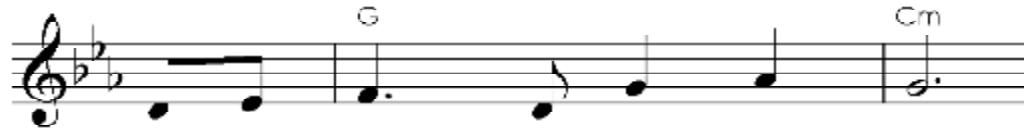
## Response

"There are Choices"

tune: St. Reinhold  
words: Deborah Patterson



1. There are choic - es all of us have made,  
2. When it dawns that we have strayed from you,  
3. Let the heal - ing wa - ters of your love  
4. Grant us joy, the wis - dom of your love,



Paths not ta - ken, bridg - es crossed.  
And the mer - cies of your care,  
Calm and tend each trou - bled breast.  
And your bless - ing on our way.



Grant us cour - age to ad - mit our need  
Help us turn, to change our hearts of pain,  
Let the hope we hear with - in your voice  
Keep our jour - neys ev - er safe from harm



For the peace that we have lost.  
And each in - jur - y re - pair.  
Be our source of strength and rest.  
As we dwell with you, we pray.

## Prayer

Many: Holy One, may we have hands gentle enough  
to receive your coming  
in that which appears vulnerable.

## \*Response 136

"Jesus, Jesus"

tune: Traditional

Jesus, Jesus, Oh what a beautiful child!  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild.  
New life, new hope, the child will bring.  
Listen, to the angles sing: Glory, glory, glory!  
Let the heavens ring!

\*An asterisk next to a section means that we stand for this part of the service.

## Scripture

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
 he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
 From this day all generations will call me blessed;  
 the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.  
 He has mercy on those who fear him,  
 from generation to generation.  
 He has shown strength with his arm  
 and has scattered the proud in their conceit,  
 Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
 and lifting up the lowly.  
 He has filled the hungry with good thing  
 and sent the rich away empty.  
 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
 to remember his promise of mercy,  
 The promise made to our ancestors,  
 to Abraham and his children for ever.

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

## Chancel Steps

*Children are invited to come to the Chancel Steps to share a story.*

*Following the story, young children may choose  
 to go to the nursery (both services)*

*or to Shepherds (11:00am—a play time in the Red Room downstairs).*

<b>Anthem</b>	8:30am	"The Savior Comes" Children's Choir	Hal H. Hopson
	11:00am	"The Angel Gabriel" Chancel Choir	Council

**Sermon** Katherine Hawker

**\*Hymn 145** "Once in Royal David's City" tune: Irby  
 words: Cecil F. Alexander

Once in royal David's city  
 stood a lowly cattle shed,  
 where a mother laid her baby  
 in a manger for his bed:  
 Mary was that mother mild,  
 Jesus Christ her little child.

## Hannah's Song

1 Samuel 2

The bow of the valiant  
 is shattered,  
 but the feeble are prepared  
 to be strong.  
 Those who have feasted,  
 in bread will be paid,  
 while those who have hungered  
 - no longer!  
 She who was barren  
 has now borne seven,  
 while the mother of many  
 dwindles.  
 Yahweh brings about  
 death and life,  
 casts to She'ol and lifts up.  
 Yahweh brings about  
 poverty and wealth,  
 makes low and lifts high.  
 He raises from the dust the weak,  
 from the ash-heap lifts the poor  
 to seat them with nobles  
 and a throne of glory grant.

*Mary's song, like Hannah's before, is one which promises a inversion of the cultural power dynamics.*



*The poinsettias  
 are donated  
 by Jan Ittner  
 in loving memory  
 of Jim Ittner.*

## Remember

Those not able to be with us in worship  
this Christmas Season:

Dorothy Fauth

2 McKnight Place Room 128B  
St. Louis MO 63124

Barbara Gaebler

Springbride Room 106-2  
50 White Road  
Hesterfield MO 63017

Mary Hampel

65 Oak  
St. Louis MO 63119

Annalea Kayar

Unset Hills Health and Rehab  
0954 Kennerly Road  
St. Louis MO 63128

Robert and Ruthild Kronberg

08 Bacon Avenue  
St. Louis MO 63119

Ernest Nolte

447 Poplar Lane  
Funster IN 46321

Wallace Rohlring

880 Clarkson Road  
Hesterfield MO 63017

Richard and Anne Spiering

1 North Old Orchard B2  
St. Louis MO 63119

Monora Weiland

15 West Rose Hill  
St. Louis MO 63122

Arthur and Edna Welhoelter

380 Lake Bend Drive, Apr. 108  
Valley Park, MO 63088

Lee Whiston

23 S. Laclede Station Road Room 189  
St. Louis MO 63119

He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing round,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars his children crowned,  
all in white shall wait around.

## Joys and Concerns

*Believing that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer,  
After each expression, the worship leader will say: Lord in your Mercy.  
And the people may respond: Hear our prayer.*

## Lord's Prayer

Many: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.**

One: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace, hallowed be your name.

Many: **Your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

One: May we prepare a way for your kingdom of peace,  
where the wolf will live with the lamb  
and the leopard will lie down with the kid.

Many: **Give us today our daily bread.**

One: In a season of greed and selfish desires  
may we see that we are sustained only by your providence.

Many: **Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

One: For our worry and our scurrying this Advent season, forgive us.  
For the way we make this a season of shopping  
rather than waiting, forgive us.  
For the security and comfort we seek from sources other than you,  
forgive us.  
For our indifference to the wonder of your coming, forgive us.

Many: **Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

One: Protect us from the constant dangers  
and enticing temptations we face each day.  
Deliver us from the oppressive evils of apathy,  
addiction, and abuse.

Many: **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

One: Word who became flesh and lived among us,  
we have seen your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

- adapted from Calvin Institute for Christian Worship

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and words from sources  
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Table Fellowship 8:30am

### Invitation

### Remembrance and Blessing

Come, Holy Spirit, come.  
Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.  
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking  
that our eyes might be opened,  
that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst  
indeed, in one another.  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

*The Congregation is invited to come forward by the center aisle...  
partaking of the bread and cup,  
placing an offering in the plates beside the table,  
lighting a prayer candle on the altar...*

### Celebration of Giving 11:00am

*The congregation is invited to share gifts for our shared ministry.*

### \*Hymn

"What Child is This"

words: William C. Dix

tune: 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!

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Many: Dear God,

As our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion  
grant us the courage to share your love.  
Love for the unexpected challenge,  
Love for the vulnerable one.  
Love for the presence of God.  
Amen.

## Sharing our Prayers

We pray for...

Dick and Ann Spiering  
31 North Old Orchard B2  
St. Louis MO 63119

Trudy Guinther and  
her daughter Chelsea  
420 W. Swon Ave 63119

Lee Whiston  
723 S. Laclede Station Rd  
Room 189 63119

Deb Patterson  
who broke a vertebrae  
159 Park Road 63119

Those who have lost jobs

## Sharing our Gifts

During our Procession to the Table (8:30am) and Celebration of Giving (11:00am), we are invited to consider our offerings.

The most significant offering we share is ourselves. We ask all who are worshipping with us today to sign "GIVING OF OURSELVES" pew cards.

It is our custom at EUCC to highlight a different mission opportunity for each of the four Sundays of Advent, leading up to Christmas. Donations for these missions will be accepted throughout the Advent season.

This week we will collect for the Doorways program: personal care and household items, such as toothpaste, deodorant, disposable razors, shampoo, soap, toilet paper, Kleenex, detergents, light bulbs, and the like. Learn more in the News & Notes.



## Advent Fair

Join us in the Fellowship Hall this morning and next week as we provide a do-good way to get your Christmas shopping done! You can also help yourself to cookies and coffee while you shop.

Today's vendors celebrate the local, the handmade, the sustainable:

- CDs
- Pottery
- Weaving
- Photography
- Jewelry
- Toys of natural materials
- Quilting
- Woodworking
- Hand-knit items
- Christmas ornaments
- Bath salts by EUCC Youth

All of the booths accept checks and cash and a few will take credit cards.

\*Hymn 153 "Who Would Think That What Was Needed" words: Bell/Maule  
tune: Scarlet Ribbons



Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and  
Shep - herds watch and sag - es won der, mon - archs scorn and  
Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from



save the earth might not be a plan or ar - my  
an - gels sing; such a place as none would reck-on  
which we move, yet ex - per - ience ques - tions wheth er



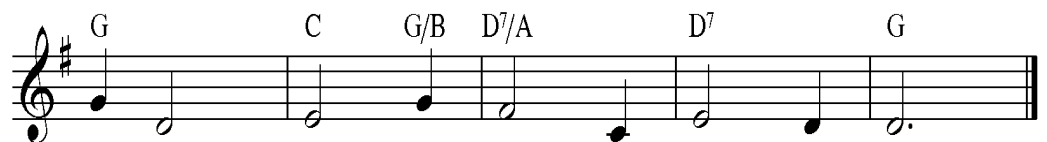
proud in pur - pose proved in worth? Who would think, de -  
hosts a ho - ly, help - less thing; Sta - bled beasts and  
with such prog - ress we im - prove. In our search for



spite de - ri - sion, that a child should lead the  
pass - ing stran-gers watch a ba - by laid in  
sense and mean-ing, lest our hopes and hu - mor



way?\_\_\_ God sur - pris - es earth with  
hay:\_\_\_ God sur - pris - es earth with  
fray,\_\_\_ God sur - pris - es earth with



heav - en, com - ing here on Christ - mas Day.  
heav - en, com - ing here on Christ - mas Day.  
heav - en, com - ing here on Christ - mas Day.

\*Blessing

\*Postlude

# Announcements

## Christmas Eve at EUCC

### Family Pageant—5:30pm

Our tradition of a “walk on” pageant continues, this year with a simple telling of the story interspersed with carol singing. *All children* (visiting children welcome!) are invited to take part in our pageant. Children who would like to participate in the pageant are encouraged to come to the Church School rooms at 5pm to choose a part (animal, angel, shepherd, or wise-guy!). The Youth Band and the Children’s Choir will share music with this family-friendly service.

### Candlelight Worship—11pm

In the hush of the night we gather in candlelight, sharing exquisite music and reflective words. Instrumentalists join the Chancel Choir to herald the Holy One’s dawning as we gather around the table in awe and joy.

## “Get My People Going”

Do you have a desire to have a healthier lifestyle? Most of us have one or more areas in our daily lives that could use some improvement. Do you need to exercise more and eat more fruits and vegetables? Or do you need to stop smoking and get some more? If you answered yes to any of these questions we have a program for you! We will have an Adult Ed Class offered on January 11 led by the Rev. Deborah Patterson to explain this 8-week wellness program. You can make that New Years Resolution this year and actually try to make it a reality!

## Health Screening— Know Your Numbers

Blood pressure and weight screening will be available the 4th Sunday of the month from 9:30-11:00am. The next screening is next Sunday.

## Caroling—today!

We will gather after late worship today, to spread joy by caroling to our homebound members. ALL voices are invited. We will proceed from EUCC to Einsteins for lunch, and at approximately 1pm, we will head out to carol. If you have any questions, please ask Paul Vasterling or Donita Bauer.

## Christmas Open House

Roger and Al will be hosting a Christmas day open house and buffet dinner for anyone who might not have plans for the day. The house will be open from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a buffet dinner starting at 5:00 p.m. While it would be helpful to know if you plan to join us for dinner, if you decide at the last minute to come, please know that there is always room for a few more at our table. Their address is 5329 Lode Ave. in Affton. Al can provide directions if needed.

## Church School Themes

Throughout this Advent season our Elementary age children will continue their Christmas around the World journey begun at our Annual Children’s Advent Event. Our planners, Darcy, Debbie & Kathy, have created 3 workshops exploring Italy, Germany and Mexico. In our Italian workshop we will learn to juggle based upon Tomie dePaola’s Clown of God. Our Germany workshop will explore Silent Night and other German music as a foundation. Los Posada will be the focus of our Mexican workshop following the tradition of a procession of Mary and Joseph in search of a place to rest. Harriet and Barb will guide our Beginner thru Pre-schoolers in a study of global traditions and legends creating crafts and even Chocolate Turtles!!!

## TODAY at EUCC

Alternative Advent Fair

During our Education Hour:  
Church School & Youth Classes

Coffee Fellowship

Also Today:

Youth Band at noon

Caroling to homebound at noon

Solstice Service at 6:00pm

## This Week at EUCC

Job Jar Gang—

RESCHEDULED for tomorrow  
Monday, Dec. 22 at 9am

Christmas Eve Worship—

Wednesday at 5:30pm and  
11:00pm

Sts. Clare & Francis Christmas  
Mass—Thursday at 10:00am

Office Closed—

Thursday and Friday

## You are invited to...

### Epiphany Party!!!!

Who: Adults of Evangelical  
What: A party of grand proportions resulting in great merriment. Live music, door prize, amazing food... including a chocolate fountain.  
Where: At Dee and David Ban’s house (12815 Westledge Lane in Des Peres)  
When: Saturday January 10, 2009 at 7pm  
Why: Because such fine fellowship celebrates being alive!  
Please call Dee for food assignments at 965-1191.

Sunday Morning  
 Shared Ministry Opportunities — Signups are in the Narthex

Ministry		Today	Next Week
Liturgists	Read the Morning Scripture and Prayers	Susan Dorris (both)	open
Shepherds	Assist Phiwa with Preschool Playtime (11:00am service)	Debbie Gregg	open
Crib Room Assistants	Help Carole play with our babies (two shifts)	Heidi Kehle, Jan Vasterling	Marlene McCarthy, Ray Mulligan
Ushers	Greet worshippers and (at 11:00am) collect offering	Teri Hillen, Sarah Webster, Linda Kolley, Jan Ittner, Earl Brown, Joe Ulrich	Bob and Bobbie Pahmeier, Karen Acker, Steve Bardelmeier, Bob Risk and Ray Mulligan
Coffee Hour	Provide finger foods and greet community between services	Advent Fair	open
Money Counters	Count the weekly offerings and enter into database	Bob and Gigi Hill	Nick Gilham and Jeremy Meyer

Pastoral Team

Katherine Hawker,  
 Marilyn Stavenger, Al Schon

Music Team

Donita Bauer,  
 Jill Thompson, Darcy Swanson

Parish Nurse, Lisa Von Stamwitz

Student, Nancy Mack

Youth, Phiwa Langeni

Education, Sue Schindel

Sunday AM, Carolyn Held

Nursery, Carole Janssen

Campus Minister at Webster, Laurel Hayes

Administration, Leslie Evans

President, Laura Bardelmeier

Secretariat, Erik Soell

Financial, Ken Ulmer

Facilities, Wynn Miller

People Team, Debbie Gregg

Community, Patty Pelikan, Janet Rundquist

Servant, Sean Bryant, Laura Evans

Worship, Margie West, David Faulkner

Endeavoring to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit in the bond of peace, we are open to and affirming of each child of God, recognizing that we are called to be as one reconciled Body with members of every race, gender identity, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, class, age and physical or mental health and ability.

Evangelical United Church of Christ  
 204 E. Lockwood Webster Groves, MO 63119  
 314-968-1727

