

Ringing of the Bells

Word: Christ Climbed Down, Lawrence Ferlinghetti

*Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
there were no rootless Christmas trees  
hung with candycanes and breakable stars*

Choir: Canticle of Turning, Hal Hopson

Word: Christ Climbed Down, Lawrence Ferlinghetti

*Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
there were no gilded Christmas trees  
and no tinsel Christmas trees  
and no tinfoil Christmas trees*

*and no pink plastic Christmas trees  
and no gold Christmas trees  
and no black Christmas trees  
and no powderblue Christmas trees  
hung with electric candles  
and encircled by tin electric trains  
and clever cornball relatives*

\*Congregation: O Come, All Ye Faithful  
135: Adeste Fideles

**O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, Born the king of angels;**

*Refrain:*

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, In the highest;**

*Refrain:*

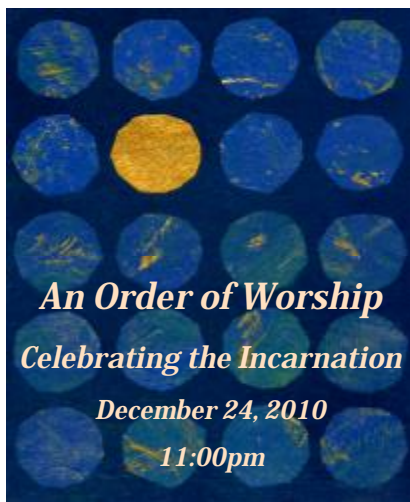
**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.**

*Refrain:*

\*Word: Christ Climbed Down, Lawrence Ferlinghetti

*Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
no intrepid Bible salesmen  
covered the territory  
in two-tone cadillacs*

*and where no Sears Roebuck creches  
complete with plastic babe in  
manger  
arrived by parcel post  
the babe by special delivery  
and where no televised Wise Men  
praised the Lord Calvert Whiskey*



*It's when we face for a moment  
the worst our kind can do,  
and shudder to know  
the taint in our own selves,  
that awe  
cracks the mind's shell and enters  
the heart:  
not to a flower, not to a dolphin,  
to no innocent form  
but to this creature vainly sure  
it and no other is god-like, God  
(out of compassion for our ugly  
failure to evolve) entrusts,  
as guest, as brother,  
the Word.*

- Denise Levertov

*Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah  
took place in this way. When his  
mother Mary had been engaged to  
Joseph, but before they lived  
together, she was found to be with  
child from the Holy Spirit. Her  
husband Joseph, being a righteous  
man and unwilling to expose her to  
public disgrace, planned to dismiss  
her quietly.*

*But just when he had resolved to do  
this, an angel of the Lord appeared  
to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph,  
son of David, do not be afraid to take  
Mary as your wife, for the child  
conceived in her is from the Holy  
Spirit. She will bear a son, and you  
are to name him Jesus, for he will  
save his people from their sins.'*

*All this took place to fulfill what had  
been spoken by the Lord through the  
prophet:*

*'Look, the virgin shall conceive and  
bear a son, and they shall name him  
Emmanuel', which means, 'God is  
with us.'*

*When Joseph awoke from sleep, he  
did as the angel of the Lord  
commanded him; he took her as his  
wife, but had no marital relations  
with her until she had borne a son;  
and he named him Jesus.*

Matthew 1:18-23

## Seeking

\*Congregation:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

116: Veni Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and with all children now do dwell,  
Give comfort to all exiles here,  
and to the aching heart give cheer.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come within as love to dwell.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in your ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come within as love to dwell.**

Reading: On the Mystery of Incarnation, Denise Levertov

Choir: African Noel, Andre Thomas

Reading: The Birth of Jesus, Matthew 1

Choir: Before the Marvel of this Night, Carl Schalk

Meditation: Presence, Katherine Hawker

Choir: The Best of Rooms, Randall Thompson

## Finding

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Table Prayer

Nathan Nettleton, Janet Morley

Blessed are you, O God of strength and vulnerability.  
You are the midwife of our lives,  
who pulls us, kicking, into life and breathes Spirit into us.

Blessed is your servant Mary  
and blessed is the holy child of her womb,  
born into poverty and exile,  
to proclaim the good news to the poor,  
and freedom to all who are oppressed.

Blessed is your son, Jesus, who emptied himself of power  
and became foolishness for our sake:  
heaven's child laid in a manger; God's anointed laid in a tomb.  
Born again from the shuddering earth,  
he is embodied forever  
in his living creation  
and in these, its fruits of bread and wine.

*Before the marvel of this night  
adoring fold your wings and bow,  
then tear the sky apart with light  
and with your news the world endow,  
proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,  
that fear and death and sorrow cease.  
Sing peace, sing peace,  
sing gift of peace,  
sing peace, sing gift of peace.*

*Awake the sleeping world with song,  
this is the day the Lord has made,  
assemble here, celestial throng,  
in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,  
a teasing taste of what they miss.  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,  
sing bliss, sing endless bliss.*

*The love that we have always known,  
our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the love-less world be shown,  
now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love  
that rules our universe above.  
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love,  
sing love, sing God is love.*

*- Jaroslav Vajda  
Before the Marvel of This Night*



*Christ, He requires still,  
wheresoe'er He comes  
To feed or lodge,  
to have the best of rooms:  
Give Him the choice;  
grant Him the nobler part  
Of all the house:  
the best of all's the heart.*

*- Robert Herrick  
The Best of Rooms*

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

Eating this bread, may we become one in the body of Christ.  
Drinking this cup, may we experience the very presence of Christ.

**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 taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup, placing an offering in the plates beside the table, and returning to the pews by the side aisles.*

## Communion Carols:

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.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ;**

**While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains**

**Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,**

**Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**

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.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?**

**Why your joyous strains prolong?**

**What the gladsome tidings be**

**Which inspire your heavenly song?**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see**

**Christ Whose birth the angels sing;**

**Come, adore on bended knee,**

**Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Merry Christmas!**  
from the staff and leaders of  
EUCC, The Other Evangelical  
[www.evangelicalucc.org](http://www.evangelicalucc.org)

*Please join us for worship on*

*Sunday mornings*

*at 8:30am and 11:00am.*

*Learning for all ages*

*begins on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am.*



with special thanks to our musicians:

Vickie Miller  
Joyce Brown  
Peg Sant'Ambrosio  
Darlene Self  
Susan Dorris  
Laura Evans  
Patty Pelikan  
Kathy Cormack  
Jean Karr  
Judy Guerrero  
Katy Hawker  
Norma Leuthauser  
Kathy Moore  
Lucy Allen  
Jane Herz  
Denise Stookesberry  
David Due  
Rob Hartmann  
Don Schindel  
Tim Engelsdorfer  
Gary Stalling  
Dave Stookesberry  
Ken Ulmer  
Doug Cormack  
Jeff Panhorst  
Amy Engelsdorfer  
Casey Geisz  
David Morley  
Rebecca Geisz Morley  
Paul Huppert  
Eve Panhorst  
Katie Stookesberry  
John Kilper  
Jim Herz  
Donita Bauer  
Jill Thompson

## Sharing

Word: Christ Climbed Down, Lawrence Ferlinghetti

*Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
no fat handshaking stranger  
in a red flannel suit  
and a fake white beard  
went around passing himself off  
as some sort of North Pole saint  
crossing the desert to Bethlehem  
Pennsylvania  
in a Volkswagen sled  
drawn by rollicking Adirondack  
reindeer  
and German names  
and bearing sacks of Humble Gifts*

*from Saks Fifth Avenue  
for everybody's imagined Christ  
child*

*Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and ran away to where  
no Bing Crosby carollers  
groaned of a tight Christmas  
and where no Radio City angels  
iceskated wingless  
thru a winter wonderland  
into a jinglebell heaven  
daily at 8:30  
with Midnight Mass matinees*

Congregation:

132: Stille Nacht

*The light of the Christ candle will be passed from the center aisle.*

Silent Night

**Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh', Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh'!**

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright;  
'Round yon virgin mother and Child!  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia:  
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Word: Christ Climbed Down, Lawrence Ferlinghetti

*Christ climbed down  
from His bare Tree  
this year  
and softly stole away into  
some anonymous Mary's womb  
again  
where in the darkest night*

*of everybody's anonymous soul  
He awaits again  
an unimaginable  
and impossibly  
Immaculate Re conception  
the very craziest of  
Second Comings*

Postlude (extinguish candles)