

Advent 4: The Light

December 18, 2011



*Each story of Jesus,
in the bible and beyond,
shares but a piece of the whole.
Each week we'll explore how
each of the gospel writers begin their stories
and share just a piece of
James Janknegt's beautiful painting
"Nativity" (pictured in full below).*



<http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~janknegt/0122.html>

The Other Evangelical
www.evangelicalucc.org

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE 8:30AM

"Christmas Joy"

Trudy Guinther (piano), Darcy Swanson (organ)

11:00AM

Instrumental Ensemble

ADVENT CANDLE PRAYER

8:30AM

source: Rex Hunt

11:00AM

The LaMont-Gibson Family

The Wald Family

One: The season of Advent challenges us
to see God's vision of what is yet to be,
to hear God's voice calling anew,
to smell the scent of God in our world.
(four candles are lit)

In this special season, let us continue to celebrate
the richness and diversity of life in the presentness of God.

PRAYER

"A Way In"

Marianne Williamson

*HYMN 118

"Of The Parent's Heart Begotten"

tune: Divinum Mysterium

words: Prudentius (4th century)

Of the par - ent's heart be - got - ten
by this Word was all cre - a - ted,
Bless - ed dawn - ing of sal - va - tion
when the worlds were yet to be,
by this Word were all things done:
as the Word is breathed in grace
One there was with no be - gin - ing,
Land and air and deep - est o - cean,
In - to earth - ly flesh re - ceiv - ing
One who is e - ter - nal - ly,
har - mo - ny of three in one,
God in - car - nate tak - ing place;
Source and End - ing of all things that have been,
And all grow - ing in the lu - mi - nance
Now the light of God re - vealed
and all things that are to be,
shed forth from the moon and sun,
through the Child of hu - man face,
for - ev - er and for - ev - er.

*The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has
neither overcome,
nor found,
nor comprehended,
nor seized the light.*

*Captivated by the darkness,
we ignore your glowing ember.
Intimidated by the glare,
we hide from your warmth.
Confused by the shadows,
we misunderstand your vision.
Compelled by the light,
we embrace your promise.*

*Source of light, remind us again
that you burn in our darkness,
you beckon in our darkness,
you blaze in our darkness,
you shine in our darkness,
even here, even now.*



http://damns.static.lickr.com/5205/5206/748832_36163038838.jpg

*For a moment, we return to the truth of
parable and the question of historical
factuality. We do not think Matthew's
story is historically factual. In our judgment,
there was no special star, no wise men, and
no plot by Herod to kill Jesus. So is the
story factually true? No. But as parable, is
it true? For us as Christians, the answer is
a robust affirmative. Is Jesus light shining in
the darkness? Yes. Do the Herod's of this
world seek to extinguish the light? Yes.
Does Jesus still shine in the darkness? Yes.*

<http://www.biblestudy.com/Faith/Christianity/2007/11/Star-Light-In-The-Sky.aspx?area=1&id=646>

*ADVENT LITANY

source: HS

- One: From the people who knew Jesus the man
we learn the stories of his teaching and healing
which pointed to a power beyond his own.
- Many: **Moved by the witness of Jesus' work
we begin again with renewed faithfulness.**
- One: From the world that surrounded the birth of
Jesus we learn the mythology of ancient god's
whose children, born of mortals, were heroes.
- Many: **Captivated by the miracle of birth
we expect great things from this new beginning.**
- One: From the community in which Jesus grew
we learn the prophetic stories that tell of time
to come in which the hope of a people is restored.
- Many: **Impressed by the lineage of faithful leaders
we begin again by remembering our history together.**
- One: From the ancient voices of wisdom
we learn that the power to which Jesus pointed
is the source of life itself, with no beginning and no end.
- Many: **Touched by the depth of mystery
our new beginning is born in silent wonderment.**

*RESPONSE 136

"Jesus, Jesus"

source: Radford

Je- sus, Je- sus. oh, what a won-der-ful
child. Je- sus, Je- sus, so ho- ly meek and
mild; new life, new hope the Child will bring.
Lis-ten to the an- gels sing, "Glo- ry, glo- ry,
glo- ry let the heav- ens ring!

READING FROM TRADITION

- One: May we be struck by the wisdom of these words
and marked by hearing them.
- Many: **For within story lies meaning, and
within meaning, the wisdom for which we seek.**
- Gretta Vosper
- One: John begins his story of Jesus with these familiar words:
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word
was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being
through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come
into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

Remembering
(please be in contact with the church
office with additions or changes to share)

Remembering those not able to worship
with us regularly...

SURRENDERING TO THE LIGHT

...an experience of prayer

RESPONSE 756

source: Berthier

Musical score for 'Surrendering to the Light' in 6/8 time, featuring four phrases of lyrics with corresponding chords (Dm, Gm, C, F) and melodic lines.

1. Dm Gm C F 2. Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

3. Dm Gm C F 4. Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

TABLE PRAYER AND PROCESSION TO THE TABLE

INVITATION

REMEMBRANCE

One: We remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell,

Many: **stories of bread broken and shared,
feeding a multitude,**

One: stories of being gathered together, enemy and friend, around tables,

Many: **stories of unlikely guests
revealing the face of the sacred.**

One: They say that it was on a night of both celebration and betrayal
that he took the bread leftover on the table,

Many: **blessed it and broke it and shared it;**

One: reminding them that it is
in the breaking that we become whole,

Many: **in losing our lives that we find them,
in serving that we are served.**

One: As the grain scattered becomes one in the loaf,

Many: **when we eat this bread,
we become one with one another.**

One: They say that he took the cup also leftover on the table,

Many: **poured out and sharing,**

One: remembering with them, the life-giving breath
even now pounding a rhythm through our veins,

Many: **the breath of life from whence we come,
the breath that precedes and follows
all that we can see.**

One: As the grapes find life in the vine,

Many: **when we drink this cup,
we become at one with the source of life itself.**

BLESSING

One: We pray together:

Many: **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 Spirit rising 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, lighting a candle in prayer, and placing
an offering in the plates beside the table.*

Special Thanks...

to Bridget Brown for helping with today's
service. Bridget is a writer and spiritual
seeker who has been part of our community
for several years.

Communion Note...

The words you hear as we share communion
may be different than you've heard before.
Like all of our life together, our prayers and
practices at table are always evolving. Our
Worship Team has been involved in reading
and reflection on our shared table practices,
exploring the meanings we share with bread
and cup. Inspired by the stories of Jesus'
table practices, we are aware that traditional
communion imagery conveys beliefs that
many of us do not share. Our prayerful hope
is to offer language and metaphor that inspire
us to greater compassion while allowing us to
encounter wonder as we gather together
at table.

In our effort to make sure that everyone feels
welcome at God's table, we now serve both
bread and gluten-free wafers which can be
dipped in the grape juice when received.

***COMMUNION SONG 150** "Sing a Different Song"

source: Bell,
Iona Community



Sing a dif-ferent song now
Shout a dif-ferent shout now
Love a dif-ferent love now
Dance a dif-ferent dance now



Christ-mas is here, sing a song of peo-ple know-ing God's near:
Christ-mas is here, shout a shout of joy and gen - u - ine cheer:
Christ-mas is here, love with-out con-di-tion, love with-out fear:
Christ-mas is here, dance a dance of war on suf-fering and fear:



The Mes - si - ah is born in the face of our scorn,
Fill the earth and the sky with the news from on high,
With the hum-ble and poor, with the shy and un - sure,
Peace and jus - tice are one, in the light of the sun.



sing a dif - ferent song to wel - come and
shout a dif - ferent shout that all may come
love a dif - ferent love. Let Christ be the
Dance a dif - ferent dance. God's reign has be -



warn.
by
cure!
gun!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

source: Marianne Williamson

One: Deliver us to our passion,
Many: **Deliver us to our brilliance,**
One: Deliver us to our intelligence,
Many: **Deliver us to our depth,**
One: Deliver us to our nobility,
Many: **Deliver us to our beauty,**
One: Deliver us to our power to heal,
Many: **Deliver us to you.**

ADVENT OFFERINGS

Collection boxes are in the Narthex and checks can be made payable to EUCC (noted for designated agency).

December 4: Christmas Fund

Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees.

December 11: Doorways

Serving the needs of those whose HIV-related illnesses require 24-hour nursing medication and nutritional care. Wish list includes: personal care items, DVDs, long-distance phone cards, household items (detergent, Kleenex and paper towels), disposable diapers, baby powder, shampoo, and craft supplies for children.

December 18: Crisis Nursery

24-Hour Helpline - 314-768-3201

Suggested items for donation include:

- Size 4, 5, 6 diapers, pull-ups & wipes
- Clothing in sizes 3T-16/18
- New underwear and socks
- Gloves for school aged children
- Hair products for African American children
- Enfamil with Lipil (milk based)

Exploring new names, we are invited to consider names that might embody our Mission, Values and Visions:



Our Mission: Following the God made known in the life and teachings of Jesus, we at Evangelical United Church of Christ gather as an Open and Affirming community to worship, learn and serve

Our Values: As a community, Evangelical United Church of Christ celebrates the values embodied in the ministry of Jesus:

- *Inclusiveness in our diversity,*
- *Intentionality in our commitment to social justice,*
- *Intimacy in our fellowship together,*
- *Inspiration in our communal worship &*
- *Inquisitiveness in our personal spiritual growth.*

Our Vision: We desire to be a leader in helping the wider community affirm that God is still speaking

*Adopted by the congregation,
July 2007*

12 Months of Compassion
December—Step 12

Love your enemies...

"We have to try to look carefully and deeply into our own hearts and thus learn to see the sorrow of our enemy."

... a new holiday tradition



http://www.photos8.com/walls/hands_holding_a_candle-

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00pm—Family Service

(with our annual "Walk On" Pageant) and both Children and Youth Choirs

11:00pm—Candlelight Worship

with Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists

Christmas Day at 11am

"The Grinch who Stole Christmas"

Join us for a simple family friendly gathering on Christmas Day at 11:00am. Together we'll share a classic childhood story that offers an ageless message, sing carols and share the wonder of the new day.

New Year's Day at 8:30am & 11am

Begin your new year with us as together we explore compassion around the table.

12 Months of Compassion
January—Step 1

Learn about Compassion...

"This program is designed to bring forth the compassion that exists potentially within every human being so that it can become a healing force in our own lives and in the world."

... back to basics



<http://growahain.typepad.com/growahain/images/peaceworld.jpg>

***HYMN**

"O Holy Night"

tune: Cantique de Noel
words: Cappeau, Dwight

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Til he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angels' voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Long live his truth, and may it last forever,
For in his name all discordant noise shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name.

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angels' voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Bulletin recycling: Though we invite you to take your bulletin home to review the prayers and opportunities throughout the week, if you choose to leave your bulletin after the 8:30am service place it in the blue box and we will use it again!



We Need YOUR Help!

We believe that our new name will emerge from our community and ask for your help in dreaming and visioning our new name. SHARE your ideas for our new name (before January 8) using the slips on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Timeline:

- **Jan 8, 2012 @ 9:45am: Conversation 2**
facilitated conversation responding to the impact of the change
- **Jan 15-17: Ballot with ALL submitted names. YOU choose five.**
- **Jan 22@ 9:45am: Congregational Work Session**
use Mission, Vision & Values to evaluate second-round ballot with five names
- **Jan 27-29: Proposed new name ANNOUNCED**
- **Feb 12: Congregation VOTES to adopt new name.**

Want to know more? Updates posted at: <http://evangelicalucc.org/NameChange>

FELLOWSHIP AND MINISTRY GROUPS

SANDWICH MINISTRY - Today, 9:45am

Please join us as we make lunches for Gateway 180 in the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. We welcome all sandwich makers and brown bag packers!

ANNUAL CAROLING EVENT - Today, 12:30pm

All voices are invited to join Donita Bauer after worship as we visit the homebound members and friends of our congregation. We gather for a quick lunch at Einstein's Bagels, then carpool for caroling. Join us from 12:30pm - circa 3:00pm.

EUCC QUILTERS & ARTISTS - January 4, 9:00am

The next meeting of the EUCC Quilters and Artists will be Wednesday, January 4, from 9:00am - 11:00am at the church in Fellowship Hall. Our art project will be making valentines for the annual Church World Service Valentine Sale, which will be held on the Sunday mornings of January 29 and February 5. For those who would prefer to sew, we have a few prayer quilts that need to be finished. We welcome anyone who enjoys paper crafting and sewing to join us. For more information, please contact Gail Saxton at 314-821-7917 or acsaxtonjr@aol.com.

EUCC MEN'S BREAKFAST - January 12, 8:00am

Join us at the Steak 'n Shake at Watson and Elm!

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE - January 18, 10:00am

The next meeting of the Mary Martha Circle will be on January 18. We will carpool at 10:00am from EUCC (upper lot) to Cape Albeon for a 10:30am program by Dee Ban, followed by lunch. Please contact Marilyn Stavenger at (314) 965-7596 for more information.

EUCC BRIDGE GROUP - January 29, 7:00pm

Marty Holland will host our EUCC Bridge Group on January 29, 2012, (the last Sunday of the month) at 7:00pm at Orchard House (31 N. Old Orchard Ave, 63119). Please let Marty know if you will or will not be able to play by either telephoning her at 314-963-2274 or emailing her at martyph@att.net. This is an easy-going bridge group, and all are welcome to join us for a fun evening of bidding, playing, eating and laughing.

EVENTS & NEWS

WINTER SOLSTICE W/ STS. CLARE & FRANCIS - December 20, 7:00pm

Join Sts. Clare & Francis for a simple service Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. with cider and cookies to follow. If you are able to bring a plate of cookies, please contact Rev. Jessica Rowley at jessica.rowley@stscclareandfrancis.org.

2012 EPIPHANY PARTY - January 7, 7:00pm

Epiphany Party!!! This annual adult wild happening will once again bring out the merriment in us all as the holiday season officially ends. **Who:** Grown-ups. **Where:** David and Dee Ban's house 12815 Westledge Lane in Des Peres. **When:** Saturday January 7, 2012 at 7pm. **What is provided:** House with roaring fire in fireplace, all beverages, all plates, cups, forks, chocolate fountain, and ridiculous door prize. **What to bring:** Depends upon what your specialty is regarding desserts or appetizers. Please call Dee for food assignments 965-1191. **Why:** Because we like you!

If you are still interested in helping our "adopted" family in need, please call Dee Ban at (314) 965-1191.

Our altar flowers have been donated by Jan Ittner in honor of Evangelical UCC's ministries.



For a complete, up to date calendar visit our website:

THIS WEEK AT EUCC

**** SANDWICH MINISTRY ****

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:30am Worship Service
9:45am Coffee Fellowship
9:45am Sandwich Ministry
9:45am Adult Ed
Children's Church School
Jr/Sr High Classes
Parent Group
11:00am Worship Service
12:30pm Annual Caroling Event
3:00pm Korean Drumming Circle
5:15pm Castlewood Support Group

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:15am Job Jar Gang

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:30am Amy's Yoga
10:00am Orchard House Bible Study
7:00pm Sts C&F Winter Solstice Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:30pm Children's Choir
7:00pm La Leche League

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00pm Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

No events scheduled

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

11:15am Youth Choir Rehearsal
4:00pm Family Service
11:00pm Candlelight Worship

New Member Classes!

Classes will be held for new members on January 8 and 15. New Members will be received at the 11:00am service on January 29 with brunch to follow at noon! Please contact Kathy Cormack at k_cormack@charter.net for more information!

inquisitive. inclusive. intentional. intimate. inspiring.
The Other Evangelical
www.evangelicalucc.org

EUCC STAFF

Pastoral Team: Katherine HawkerSelf,
 Marilyn Stavenger, Al Schon
 Administrative Assistant: Laura Barrett
 Communications: Cathi Beckmann
 Music Team: Donita Bauer, Darcy Swanson,
 Twila Loy (interim)
 Sunday AM: Julie White
 Nursery: Carole Janssen
 Campus Minister at Webster: Laurel Hayes

GOVERNING BODY

President, Janet Rundquist
 Secretariat, Nick Gilham
 Financial, Ken Ulmer
 Facilities, *Open*
 People, Michelle Helms
 Community, Sarah Webster
 Servant, Lori Winter, Kelly Archer
 Learning, Chris Reinhard
 Worship, Roni Branding
 Youth Representative, Micah Hawker-Boehnke

Joining us for the first time?

In a word: *Welcome*

Whoever you are, wherever you are on the journey, you are truly welcome here. We are human and fallible, but utterly committed to God's extravagant welcome!

Worship Rules: *Enjoy*

Some people clap, some don't. Some babies make noise, some don't. Some people read music, some people look at pictures. We stand and either speak or sing together occasionally, but do what feels right for you. Likewise with clothes; some people wear suits with sneakers, some wear hockey uniforms with ruby slippers. Whatever style is yours, it's safe here. *Enjoy your time with us!*

Coffee: *Your choice*

Bring your own or fill up with the pot in the Fireside Room. Bring it in to worship, or not; decaf or regular. *It's your choice!*

Difference: *Bring it on!*

We don't simply tolerate our difference, we celebrate the wonder of the sacred in our differences... not only age, race, gender, ability, and orientation, but politics and theology too!



nursing mothers welcome!

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

	Today	December 24	December 25 – 11:00am only!
Church School Center Helpers	Colleen Gilmore	No Church School	No Church School
Church School Storyteller	Colleen Gilmore	No Church School	No Church School
Church School Welcome Table	Lola Contestabile	No Church School	No Church School
Coffee Hour	Susan Morgan Marie Keath	None	Gigi Hill
Crib Room	8:30 Linda Brandewiede 11:00 Kris Lewis	None	10:30-12:00 Gigi Hill
Liturgist	8:30 Mickey Clarke 11:00 Kathy Adair	4:00 Al Schon 11:00 Al Schon	11:00 <i>Open</i>
Money Counters	Bob Hill Gigi Hill	None	Ken Ulmer
Shepherds	Jennifer Marchi Joe Kelly	None	None
Ushers	8:30 Sandy Bowe 11:00 Jan Ittner Linda Kolley Bob Karr Wynn Miller	4:00 <i>Open</i> 11:00 <i>Open</i>	11:00 Bob & Bobbie Pahmeier
Welcome Table	Marge Engelsdorfer	3:00-4:00 <i>Open</i> 10:00-11:00 <i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>

SUNDAY MUSIC

Today	December 24	December 25– 11:00am only!
8:30am Chancel Choir	4:00pm Children's Choir Youth Choir	
11:00am Children's Choir	11:00pm Chancel Choir Instrumentalists	11:00am TBA

Contact us:

204 E. Lockwood Ave
 Webster Groves MO 63119
 314.968.1727

email: churchoffice@evangelicalucc.org

Notes: Sources for words, images, and music are noted where available. Permission to reprint music and words from sources other than The New Century Hymnal is granted under OneLicense.net, license no. A-704973, and/or LicenSing.org.

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