

03 January 10

Second of Christmas

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

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Women: *We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.*

Men: ***We have remembered God's wonder and promise,
and we are worshiping.***

Children: **We have come not to get presents, but to give them!**

One: Lift up your eyes and look around;
God's people now gather together,
to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

All: **The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here:
Come, let us adore!**

*Invocation

All: **God of wonder and mystery,
today we remember how you surprise us in every age.
Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light;
into emptiness, you bring abundance;
into the cold, you bring warmth.
Into the hardness of the world,
you bring the greatest power we have known,
in the seemingly powerless form of an infant.
Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us,
and move us to joyful adoration
of your mystery and wonder.**

*Hymn 164

"Arise Your Light Is Come"

tune: Regent Square
words: Ruth Duck



**Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
Which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born;
Bind up the broken-hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.**

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:

We offer sign language interpreting at our 11am worship service as requested. 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.

Welcome Center

New to our community? Please stop by the Welcome Center in center of the Narthex (outside the sanctuary) to learn more about our community, our facility, and our programs.



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

*Prayer of Confession

One: We remember the Magi,
who set out with singular focus on the promise of the heavens.

Many: **And we remember the ways
that we have lost sight of you, God,
as the bright guide for our lives.**

One: We remember that they stayed determined on their journey,
not even swayed by Herod's power and promises.

Many: **And we remember that often we have started out well,
but strayed from your path,
detoured by our fleeting fears and desires.**

One: We remember the wise ones who adored the child:
wisdom and wealth falling to their knees before a poor infant.

Many: **And we remember that too often we have given our adoration
to wealth or wisdom, not seeing the Christ in our midst.**

*Words of Assurance

One: To each of us who knows that
we have lost sight of the promise,
or lost the way of our God,
or lost hope,
God has a promise: "I am with you."
God gives a holy presence, and forgiveness,
and new hope, in the Christ.

Many: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Responses

tune: Old Hundredth

**Praise God the source of life and breath;
Praise Christ, now born to conquer death;
Praise Holy Spirit's mystery:
One God, pure grace, who sets us free. Amen.**

Scripture

Isaiah 60: 1-9

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house. Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? For the coast lands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and

scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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).

Anthem

8:30am	Special Music Anna Dodson
11:00am	Special Music Zack and Emma Jenkins

Sermon

*Hymn 159

"As With Gladness"

Deborah McBride

tune: Dix
words: Dix

**As with gladness those of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
So true Morning Star, may we
evermore your splendor see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
One whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
ever seek your mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

**Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.**

Maria Sacerdota

Before Jesus
was his mother
Before supper
in the upper room
breakfast in the barn.
Before the Passover Feast,
a feeding trough.
And here, the altar
of Earth, fair linens
of hay and seed.

Before his cry,
her cry.
Before his sweat
of blood,
her bleeding
and tears.
Before his offering, hers.
Before the breaking
of bread and death,
the breaking of her
body in birth.

Before the offering
of the cup,
the offering of her
breast.
Before his blood,
her blood.
And by her body and blood
alone, his body and blood
and whole human being.

The wise ones knelt
to hear the woman's word
in wonder.
Holding up her sacred child,
her God in the form of a babe,
she said: "Receive and let
your hearts be healed
and your lives be filled
with love, for
This is my body,
This is my blood."

Alla Renee Bozarth



In our Prayers



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.*

Our Lord's Prayer (paraphrase)

Sarah Dylan Brewer

Loving Creator, we honor you,
and we honor all that you have made.
Renew the whole world in the image of your love.
Give us what we need for today,
and a hunger to see the whole world fed.
Strengthen us for what lies ahead;
heal us from the hurts of the past;
give us courage to follow your call in this moment.
For your love is the only power,
the only home, the only honor we need,
in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Table Fellowship 8:30am and 11:00am

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. We are also invited to respond to God's goodness as
we place an offering in the plates beside the table, and/or light a prayer candle. After
returning to the pews, please take a moment to sign the ritual of friendship pads.*

*Response

Cranham

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would bring my heart.
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

*Prayer of Dedication

Many: God of every good gift, here we present our offerings.
There is money here, fulfilling our pledges
to support the ministries we do in your name.
There are gifts that we give in response to your Spirit,
which we remember in joyful song and holy story,
in prayer and silence.
And there are other gifts, not physically on this table
but held in the altar of our hearts.
God, we offer them all to you.
We ask your blessing on all that we give,
so that your loving care reaches into us
and out to all the world,
ever more deeply and gracefully.
We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.

*Sources for words, images, and music
are noted where available. Permis-
sion to reprint music and words from
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***Hymn 153**

"Who Would Think"

tune: Scarlett Ribbons
words: Iona



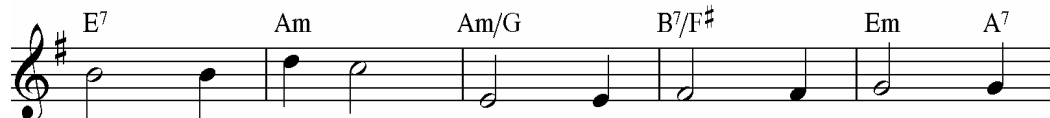
Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and
Shep - herds watch and sag - es won der, mon - archs scorn and
Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from



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



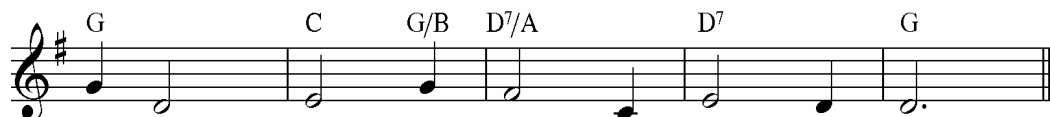
proud in pur - pose proved in worth? Who would think, de -
hosts a ho - ly, help - less thing; Sta - bled beasts and
with such prog - ress we im - prove. In our search for



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



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



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

***Benediction**

One: Arise, people of God! Shine!
The light of our Christ is in you and among you,
guiding you and blessing you, now and always: **Amen.**

***Postlude**

Prayers in today's worship come from:

Arise! People of God, Shine! Service Prayers for the Festival of Epiphany, was written by John A. Nelson, Pastor and Teacher of Niantic Community Church, Niantic, Connecticut.

Journey Of The Magi by T. S. Eliot

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sore-footed,
refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the
terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.

Then the camel men cursing and
grumbling
And running away, and wanting their
liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the
lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns
unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high
prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all
night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears,
saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a
temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of
vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill
beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped in
away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with
vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for
pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so
we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment
too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say)
satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I
remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth,
certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had
seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different;
this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like
Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these
Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old
dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their
gods.
I should be glad of another death.

A March, A Reception, A Community Wide Celebration and Worship Service

15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration on Sunday, January 17th. Marchers can begin at 4:30pm from the steps of Webster Groves City Hall at 4 E. Lockwood Ave. and end at Steger Sixth Grade Center at 701 N. Rock Hill Road. Participants may walk or drive, drivers follow the walkers. Walkers please bring a flashlight. Reception will be begin at 6:00pm with Community Worship Service at 6:30pm at Steger Sixth Grade Center.

Essay Contest included...

Children grades K-12 may submit 50 to 500 word essay reflecting "Achieving the Goals of Dr. King's Dream". Entries will be limited to student living within the Webster Groves School District. Winners receive a \$100 US Savings Bond. Contest deadline is January 6 12 noon and may be submitted to Webster-Rock Hill Ministries Office, 111 Waymire Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119

Financial Team needs Volunteers...

Volunteers are needed to form an Audit Circle. A very important responsibility of the Financial Team is to see that the money resources made available to EUCC are used in the service of Christ and in the manner designated by the church membership and leadership. To accomplish this responsibility the Financial Team is forming an Audit Circle. The Audit Circle task is to verify the truth and accuracy of the information contained in the church's financial reports and to express an opinion on such information to the church membership. The only requirement of a volunteer is independence, meaning that you must be unbiased and impartial regarding the church's financial information. Also, you do not need to have an accounting or financial background. We have resources that will guide the Audit Circle in reviewing the financial information of the Church. Scott Guerrero, as a member of the Financial Team, has offered his skills to help with organizing the Audit Circle. Please consider this important volunteer job by contacting Scott Guerrero (314) 968-2807 scott.guerrero@carlson.com.

Finance Team Updates...

Finances in Brief

For the period of January to November 2009 the contributions received were \$269,831; other Income was \$16,331, for a total of \$286,162. Expenses were \$286,284. The result is a TYD deficit for 2009 of \$122. The weekly average of contributions received was \$5,621. The weekly average needed to meet the General Fund Budget is \$5,869. Difference is a shortfall of \$248. [The Finance Team reports that our financial condition has improved remarkably since July 31 when the deficit for the year was over \$12,000.]

Giving Envelopes...

Giving envelopes (for 2010) for those who requested them are located in the narthex. Please check the box for your name. If you desire giving envelopes and do not find one with your name please notify the Church Office and a set will be obtained for you.

2010 General Fund Pledges...

Sixty-three pledges have been submitted for 2010 totaling \$209,200. The average increase is 8.2%. Eight households initiated pledging the first time for 2010. These comprise \$24,100 of the \$209,000 total. The Finance Team thanks EUCC members and friends for the continuing and increasing financial support of EUCC.

Quilters will meet this Wednesday...

The EUCC quilters will meet next on Wednesday evening, January 6 from 7 – 9 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at church. Activities for the evening will include making cards for the annual Valentine sale that benefits Church World Service in February. We invite anyone who enjoys paper crafts to join us! Arrival and departure hours are flexible – feel free to come and go at whatever times work for you. For more information, contact Gail Saxton at 314-821-7917 or

Drumming Circle will meet this Wednesday...

Our Women’s Drumming Circle will meet this Wednesday, January 6th at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Epiphany Party THIS SATURDAY...

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 9, 2009 at 7pm
Why: Because such fine fellowship celebrates being alive! Please call Dee for food assignments at 965-1191.

EUCC Moms’ Group will this Friday...

EUCC Moms' Group will meet Friday morning January 8th from 9:30-11 in the fireside room. We will be talking about the winter "blaaaazs" as well as planning ahead. If you need child care please call Dee Ban 965-1191.

The Church Office is now accepting photos for an updated pictorial directory...

The Church Office is in the process of updating our Pictorial Directory. If you wish to submit an updated photo, you may do so at this time. Photos may be emailed to the Church Office at churchoffice@evangelicalucc.org. Or printed photos may be mailed or left in Sue Schindel's mailbox outside the church office to be scanned. Please label the photos accurately and let her know if you would like them returned to you. If you do not want yours returned it will be placed in your file. If you have any questions you can contact Sue at (314) 968-1727 or by email.

Our goal is to have them available by our annual meeting. Thank You!

THIS WEEK AT EUCC

Sunday, January 3th

NO CHURCH SCHOOL/ADULT EDUCATION

8:30am—Worship

9:45am—Coffee Fellowship

11:00am—Worship

12:00pm—Youth in Worship Band Practice

Monday, January 4th

9:15am—Job Jar Gang

12:15pm—Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 5th

12:15pm—Al-Anon Meeting (Adult Lounge)

2:30pm—Play and Pray

7:00pm—Phase 1 Building

Committee Meeting (Adult Lounge)

Wednesday, January 6th

6:30pm—Children’s Choir

7:00pm—Quilters (Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm—Women’s Drumming Circle (Sanctuary)

Thursday, January 7th

9:00am—WG Moms’ Connection (Fellowship Hall/Red Room)

7:00pm—Spiritual Direction Group (Sr. High Rm)

7:30pm—Chancel Choir

Friday, January 8th

9:30am—EUCC Mom’s Group

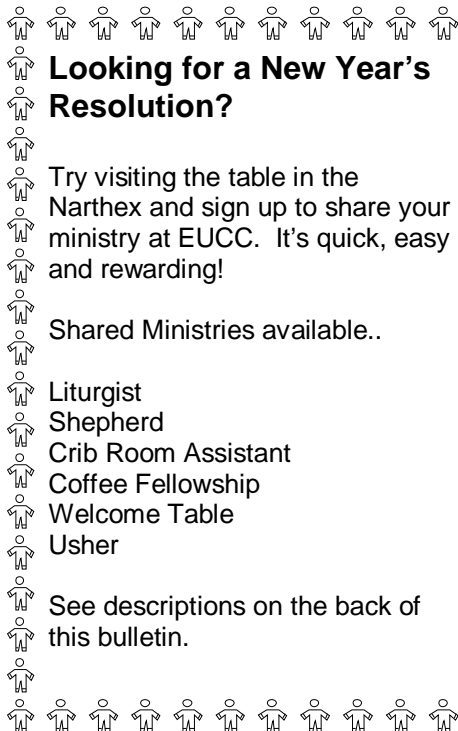
Saturday, January 9th

7:00pm—Epiphany Party at the home of David and Dee Ban

Education News!

Church School resumes January 10th. During Epiphany, Jan 10-Feb 14, we will explore the healing stories of Jesus.

Adult Ed also resumes January 10th including ‘Children and the Church’ offered in Katy’s office and Bible Workbench in the Adult Lounge at 9:45am.



Looking for a New Year’s Resolution?

Try visiting the table in the Narthex and sign up to share your ministry at EUCC. It’s quick, easy and rewarding!

Shared Ministries available..

- Liturgist
- Shepherd
- Crib Room Assistant
- Coffee Fellowship
- Welcome Table
- Usher

See descriptions on the back of this bulletin.

Sunday Morning

Shared Ministry Opportunities — Signups are in the Narthex

Ministry		Today	Next Week
Liturgists	Read the Morning Scripture and Prayers	Erin Schroeder (11:00)	OPEN
Shepherds	Help Carolyn play with our preschoolers	Mia Ulmer and Julianne Smutz	Melinda Love Elaine Branding
Crib Room Assistants	Help Carole play with our babies (two shifts)	Amy Soell	Florence Neuhoff
Ushers	Greet worshipers and (at 11:00am) collect offering	Sandy Bowe Geno and Lola Contestabile	TBD
Coffee Hour	Provide finger foods and greet community between services	OPEN	OPEN
Money Counters	Count the weekly offerings and enter into database	Norma Leuthauser Sandy Bowe	Bob Risk and Ray Mulligan
Welcome Table	Greet visitors and members		

Pastoral Team
Katherine Hawker,
Marilyn Stavenger, Al Schon

Pastoral Assistant, Sue Schindel

Music Team
Donita Bauer,
Jill Thompson, Darcy Swanson

Field Ed Student, Deborah McBride

Parish Nurse, Lisa Von Stamwitz

Sunday AM, Carolyn Held

Nursery, Carole Janssen

Campus Minister at Webster, Laurel Hayes

President, Laura Bardelmeier

Secretariat, Paul Mack

Financial, Ken Ulmer

Facilities, Wynn Miller

People, Debbie Gregg

Community, Patty Pelikan, Janet Rundquist

Servant, Lori Winter, Laura Evans

Learning, Ruth Panhorst

Worship, Lil Lau

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

