



**St. John's Chapel
United Church of Christ**

4344 S. Fremont Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804-7306
www.stjohnschapel.org
417-881-5175

Liturgist: Nancy Anderson

December 4, 2011

Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 A.M.

(All who are able, please stand.)*

10:20 am

Gathering

Meditative Music

played by Kyle Aho

As we gather for worship we invite you to observe silence and enter into reflection.

In the season of Advent we expectantly wait for Christ to lead us through the waters and the fire of rebirth.

Space to write down your thoughts: _____

You may wish to light a candle at the Communion table to symbolize the concerns or joys you carry with you to worship, or whatever is in your heart and mind.

Please come forward if you wish to receive communion at this time.

Lighting of Candles

10:30 am

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome

***Setting the Stage**

Isaiah 43: 1-3a

Leader: Thus says God who created you, who formed you:

People: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine.

Leader: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

People: And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

Leader: When you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

People: And the flames shall not consume you.

Unison: For I am Yahweh your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

***Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Shirley and Corneil Datema

Unison: Advent calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In the wilderness Isaiah speaks the past into the present. On this second Sunday of Advent we chose to light a path in the wilderness for the birth of Christmas. The flame beacons us to a baptism by fire.

***Hymn of Celebration**

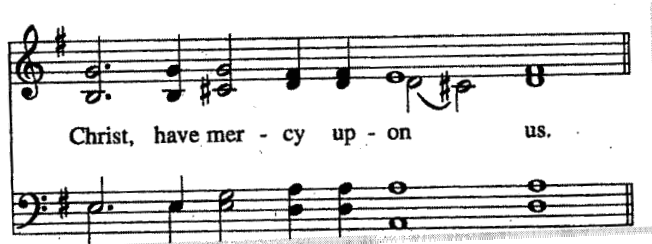
“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

No. 157

***Call to Confession**

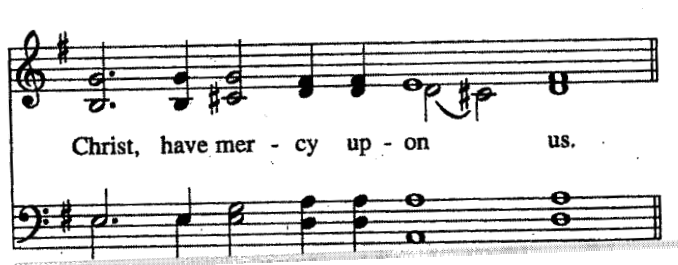
Leader: Oh God, You call us to repent, to turn our lives around, and work with patience and diligence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we let fear determine our fate.

All:

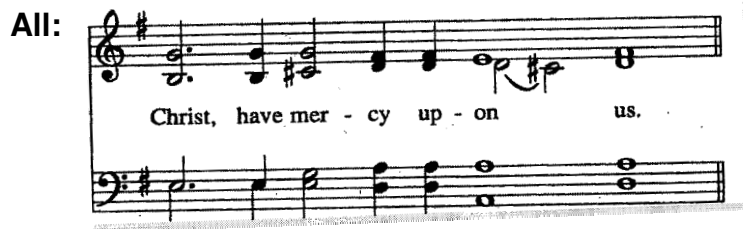


Pastor: Oh God, You call us to tell our ancestry stories and let the past show us the way, but we fail to see the significance salvation history plays in preparing the way.

All:



Pastor: Make us conscious O God, of all the ways we wronged You and broke Your heart that we may repent, turn from our sinful ways and become a blessing to You.



***Silent Meditation and Personal Confession**

***Words of Assurance**

***Gloria Patri**

(“Glory Be to the Father” No. 9 in *Sing to the Lord*)

Children’s Time

Mr. Chuck Andrews

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Pastor: Wondrous God, as we light our Advent candles, ignite in us a burning fire. Baptize us with the Holy Spirit that Your visions of true peace and justice, of true hope and reconciliation reside henceforth in our heart, mind and soul. Sometimes our spiritual life, as individuals and as a church, feels cut to a stump, just barely alive amidst troubles and worries. In the excitement and joy of Advent and Christmas, remind us of our hope and rekindle our joy and trust in You. Thus we ask:

All: Come, O Come Emmanuel, make room in our world and in our hearts for Your to live.

Pastor: God, we thank you for our church community, the fellowship and joy we share together. Be with so many in our faith family suffering with illness, those living with financial pressures, those struggling with emergencies in their families, those we called by name and those we of whom we are unaware. Make their lives as blessed as possible through these difficult times. In this Advent season, remind and help us to be your witnesses through the love and communion we share with each other, and through the compassion with which we reach out to our community. Thus we ask:

All: Come, O Come Emmanuel, make room in our world and in our hearts for Your Holy Spirit to live.

Pastor: Awaiting your coming in peace and justice, we are troubled by the long wars in which this and many other countries seem to be trapped. We are especially mindful of those who are in the armed services at this time, help us be mindful of all who serve in the military. We are also pained to see people suffering under poverty and exploitation. All the more we yearn for Your coming to make real the baptism of Your Spirit, a spirit that does not tolerate hurt or destruction. Thus we ask:

All: Come, O Come Emmanuel, help us make room in our world and in our hearts for Your Holy Spirit to live.

Pastor: Help us cast aside our uncertainties, our narrow-mindedness, preconceived notions and run in meadows of freedom, dance on a starlit night, and not let fear rule our lives as we pass through the waters and fire of baptism.

Pastor: In silence we offer the prayers of our heart to You, O God.

Silence

Thus we ask:

All: Come, O Come Emmanuel, make room in our world and in our hearts for Your Holy Spirit to live.

Anthem "Glory To God"

Reading of Holy Scripture Isaiah 40: 1-11 Nancy Anderson p.653-654
Mark 1: 1-8 p.910

Sermon "Through the Water and the Fire" The Rev. Becky Hébert

***Hymn** "O Christians, Haste" No. 712
Isaiah 40:9

Get you up on a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings, lift up your voice with strength. Lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Offertory "Go Tell It On The Mountain" Afro– American Spiritual

***Doxology and Dedication Prayer** ("Praise God" No. 7 in *Sing to the Lord*)

***Dedication Prayer**



Closing Hymn

“Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old”

1 I - sa - iah the proph-et has
2 The moun-tains and hills shall break
3 Yet na - tions still prey on the
4 God, bring to fru - i - tion your

writ-ten of old how God's new cre - a - tion shall come. In - stead of the
forth in - to song, the peo - ples be led forth in peace; The earth shall be
meek of the world, and con - flict turns par-ent from child. Your peo - ple de-
will for the earth, that no one shall hurt or de - stroy, That wis - dom and

thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the
filled with the knowl-edge of God as the wa - ters cov - er the
spoil all the sweet-ness of earth; the brier and the thorn tree grow
jus - tice shall reign in the land and your peo - ple shall go forth in

lamb, the lamb, the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
sea, the sea, as the wa - ters cov - er the sea.
wild, grow wild, the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.
joy, in joy, your peo - ple shall go forth in joy.

The Apostles Creed (Worship Resources p. 2 in pew packet)

***In the Life of the Church**

***Benediction**

Congregational Response "We Are Waiting"

We are wait - ing for you, know - ing
that you al - ways a - bide, we are wak - ing
to your pres - ence and our hearts are o - pen
wide, o - pen wide o - pen wide.

Organ Postlude Oh, Come All Ye Faithful by John Wade

Our Mission Statement

St. John's Chapel UCC is called to love unconditionally, seek justice, foster spiritual growth, and embrace diversity of thought and body as taught by Jesus Christ.

Our Stewardship for Sunday, November 27, 2011

Worship: 54 Offering: \$854.00

Sunday School: 10 Offering: \$10.00

The average weekly offering needed to meet annual budget is \$2,423.00



Sunday School — 9:15 AM
Worship — 10:30 AM
Pastor's Day Off — Friday
Secretary's Office Hours: 8:30 AM — 1:00 PM Monday-Friday

Thank you to you all for the cards, calls, and visits from my St. Johns friends. I appreciate each and every one!

Flora Valentine

IT'S TIME FOR *POINSETTIAS*

A donation of everlasting, permanent poinsettias has been made to our Chapel. In addition to remaining perfectly lovely through the Christmas season, these already purchased poinsettias enable **100% of your donation** to go towards feeding families via Friendship Circle's Food Pantry/Crosslines in this year of tremendous need.



- 1) Fill out the form below.
- 2) Include your check for the desired amount made out to Friendship Circle, noting "Crosslines" on the memo line.
- 3) Prior to **Sunday, December 11**, turn in your check and completed form in an envelope clearly marked POINSETTIAS to the Chapel Office.

And we would love to have your independently purchased live poinsettias beautify our altar. Just remember to make a donation to the Poinsettia Fund, too!

P O I N S E T T I A D O N A T I O N F O R M

Please Print

Donor's Name _____

Circle one:

Given in Memory Of _____

Given in Honor Of _____

Today's Date _____

Thank you for caring

Please remember the following people in prayer:

Earl Reed– His health continues to decline.

Rosemary Witt– She had major dental work done.

Jamie Gromer– She has health conditions which cause a faster than normal heart rate and problems with her immune system

Beth Shane-Clark– . Her father in law passed away Wednesday.

Our members in nursing homes or home bound: Flo Valentine, Virginia Shean, and Virginia Steury.



Crosslines Toy “Store” 2011
Donate a gift for infants, or diapers, size1

*Leave toys as purchased in manufacturers’
packaging with the price tag intact.*

Cash donations for toys are also accepted

See Judith Bartell if you have questions.

Toys are due on or before December 11
Bring hope & smiles to local little ones!

December 4, 2011

Dennis Gromer will open the church this Sunday
Today’s Children’s Time-Chuck Andrews

TODAY:	Worship.....	10:30 am
	Worship Committee Meets after Worship	
	2nd Sunday Of Advent	
	Advent family Corneil & Shirley Datema	
Monday	Grace & Weight.....	5:30 pm
	Board Of Service Ministries.....	6:00 pm
Wednesday	Choir Practice.....	7:00 pm
Thursday	The Women’s Guild Annual Covered Dish Luncheon.....	12:00 pm
Saturday	Board of Christian Education Christmas Party at Eleanor Berger’s	
	5:00 pm.

Next Sunday, December 11:

Christmas Cantata

3rd Sunday Of Advent

Independent Women meet at the Tower Club at 1:00 pm.

You, whether a member or guest, are an important and valuable part of this St. John’s Chapel Community. Your participation in this worship service is a blessing. May you always know God’s gift of unending love.

A nursery is available during worship for children up through three years of age. If you need help locating the nursery, please ask an usher.

Hearing-assistance devices are available for use during worship. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher to get one for you.