



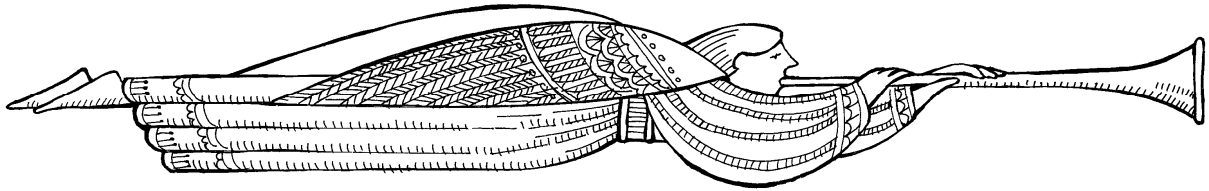
ADVENT CANTATA

St. John's Chapel United Church of Christ

4344 South Fremont Avenue
Springfield, MO 65804-7306

www.stjohnschapel.org

December 6, 2009



Music Director: Chris Brammer

Organist: Vicky Claborn

December 6, 2009

Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 A.M.

Liturgist: Nancy Anderson

Advent Cantata

** Denotes when all who are able to please stand.*

Gathering

Meditative Music

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

Today's worship service brings to us in music the Advent story. You might want to reflect on your understanding of Advent and reflect upon the Advent story as it is told by Luke, for this is where we are in the lectionary.

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. Or you may wish to reflect on this where you are seated today. Or if you reflect better walking, please walk around the sanctuary and reflect upon images you encounter.

Lighting of Altar Candles

Acolyte: Sarah Graham

Meditative Hymn

"Emmanuel"

No. 165

Please remain seated for this hymn as it is part of our time of meditation and reflection.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Tebbenkamp Family

Liturgist: Our homes and our world are under siege with information:
Television and telemarketing; blogs and texting:
So much information often bearing too little wisdom.
Angry voices compelling hate;

Quiet voices counseling complacency;
Mechanical voices offering “deals”—
Too much information! Too little wisdom!

People: **Confusion surrounds us; Truth gets lost.**

Pastor: We call out in our confusion:

People: **Where is Your Wisdom, O God?
Where is the word that leads to life?**

Liturgist: We remind ourselves of our ancient story:

John, Zechariah’s son, out in the desert at the time,
received a message from God.
He went all through the country around the Jordan River
preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins,
as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet:
“...prepare God’s arrival! Make [God’s] road smooth and straight!”

*Luke 3: 2-4: adapted from **The Message** © 2002 Eugene H. Peterson;
reproduced with permission*

Pastor: Let us light this second candle of Advent, a candle of Peace.
In its light let us think, quietly and peacefully, about what voices
of true life-change and forgiveness
are speaking in our world right now.

Silence

Liturgist: Let this candle of Advent Peace shine in our hearts all week,
And remind us to enter times of quiet and peace in order to listen
through the noise of our lives, for the call to prepare for the Holy One.

Welcome and Announcements

Members and guests, please sign the friendship pad and pass it down to the end
of the pew. Then pass it back toward the aisle noting the names of those seated
next to you. After worship, greet those who are sitting in the pew with you.

***Hymn of Celebration** “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” No. 157

***Call to Confession**

Silent Meditation and Personal Confession

*During this time of inward reflection and repentance, you may want to use the
“Examen,” which simply means an examining of our lives in a prayerful way. It is*

different from a prayer of confession in that it reviews both the good and the bad of our lives. You pause to look back over your week, or as many days as you wish to examine, and notice where you have partnered with God. In other words, when were you trying to do it alone and when did you ask God to assist you? You can also remember the events, encounters or insights that felt like gifts from God and those that did not. Or remember the times in the day when you gave and received love, and when you did not give or receive love. Once your days are reviewed and examined, you may journal what you have uncovered, or simply imagine offering your insight up to God to let God love you just as you are.

***Words of Assurance**

***Gloria Patri**

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

Morning Prayer, Lord’s Prayer (*debts and debtors*) **& Choral Response**



The Voices of Our Choir

Sopranos

Elaine Tebbenkamp Loy Swanson Liz Stafford
JohnaSteinhauer Shirley Datema

Altos

Ida Carol Berry Judy Bartell Jan Rund Thelma Hurshman Christy Graham
(Eleanore Lockhart) (Tona Griggs)

Tenors

David Claborn Butch Stillman Pete Graham

Bass

Ken Swanson Gary Tebbenkamp Lee Bartell Chris Trumbull

Guest Voices

Bethanie Earnst Sara Coleman Jason Godberry Bentley Coughlin
Elizabeth Rogers Stacy Harvey Zach Singer Chris Newson

Orchestra

Violin

Jacob Hizer
Tara Kizer
Emily Jones

Cello

Matt Price
Melissa Dudly
Melissa Dudley

Flute

Caitlin Webb
Joette Hosmann
Nick Baker

Clarinet

Luis Urango
Justin Carretta
Charles Liddell
Ellen Hulsey



The Eve of Miracles
An Advent Cantata
by Gregg Sewell

Musical Director: Chris Brammer

Organist: Vicky Claborn

The Handmaid of the Lord~

Gabriel: *Mary, gentle Mary, God has favored you.*

Mary: *Voices, what are you saying? How has God favored me?*

Gabriel: *Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus!*

Mary: *How shall this be, since I have no husband?*

Gabriel: *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.*

Mary: *Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let It be to me according to your word.*

God's Chosen One~

Chorus: *Mary wondered what to do, knew her tongue would not keep still;
had to share her joy with one who would understand God's will.
Joseph is her own true love; she must tell him she is God's cho-
sen one.*

Telling Joseph~

Chorus: *Joy! Pure, unadulterated joy rises to the top of my soul! God has
shown me: He has chosen me! Joseph! I can hardly wait to tell
the news! God has done a wondrous thing! God has chosen me
to bear His Son!*

Mary: *Joseph? What is this I see? Please believe me, you must be-
lieve me! God has shown me that His Child shall come by me.
He has chosen me to bear His Son. Oh, Joseph, don't turn away
from me!*

Rise, Dear Child~

Chorus: *Mary, rise, dear child. Go and see Elizabeth; rise dear child.
Gabriel has told you that she is to bear a son. Go and see Eliza-
beth.*

Solaced at Last~

Chorus: *As she traveled, Mary pondered, thinking on these things.
Friends and brothers traveled with her, sensing her distress.
Comfort far was from this maiden, burdened so with care.
Friends and brothers tried to ease her pain, but solaced she was
not. Mary would not share her burden, she could not reveal what
the angel prophesied, what her God had done. Turned she then
to scriptures ancient, looking there for help. Found she one who
also bore a son, given her from God. Hannah, who was Sam-
uel's mother, barren for so long, God had granted her a son, for
faithful she had been. Mary knew that God had spoken, knew it
was His will that she bear this burden for her God. And solaced
at last she was.*



Elizabeth Met Mary~

Chorus: *Elizabeth met Mary, Elizabeth welcomed Mary. And exclaimed when John leaped in her womb: "Blessed are you among women! And blessed is the fruit of your womb!" And Mary answered, rejoicing with Elizabeth:*

Rejoicing Together~

Mary: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for holy is His name.*

Elizabeth: *Blessed are you among women.*

Chorus: *And Mary stayed with Elizabeth, drawing strength from her faith.*

And Mary Returned Home~

Chorus: *And when the time had come, she returned to her home. She praised God and trusted in Him for the marvelous things to come. Mary returned to her home with her friends and her brothers.*

Then Mary Went to Joseph~

Chorus: *Then Mary went to see her beloved, Joseph. And Joseph told her that God had spoken to him. God sent an angel in a dream, an angel to speak to Joseph in a dream.*

Joseph's Song~

Joseph: *He told me that you were with child by the spirit. He told me that I should take you as my wife. He told me that your child would be a son, and that His name shall be Jesus, our Savior, for He will save his people from their sins. God's will is for us both to raise His Son.*

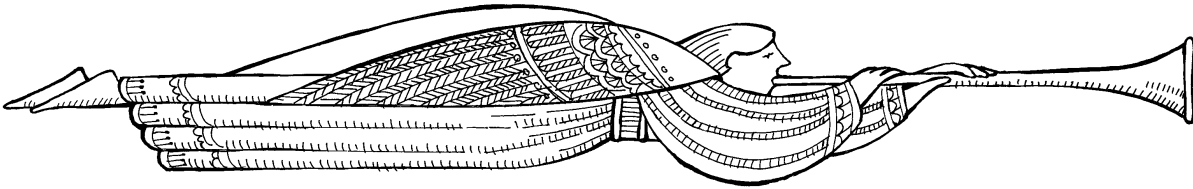
Hear Ye!

Chorus: *Hear ye! Caesar proclaims a census must begin. Go ye! all people to your town of origin.*



On the Eve of Miracles~

Chorus: *Joseph and Mary journeyed hard. When they arrived in the Bethlehem, the City of David, crowded and busy, welcomed them not. Joseph searched for an inn, searched high and low for a simple room, but no place at all was to be found. Bethlehem, crowded and busy, turned a deaf ear to God. Finally a corner was made for God's mother; heavy with child she reposed. And Joseph comforted her, on the eve of miracles.*



Gloria in Excelsis Deo!



Offertory

“Rustic Serenade to the Virgin Mary”

Berlioz

***Doxology and Dedication Prayer**

(“Praise God” No. 7 in *Sing to the Lord*)

***Dedication Prayer** (*in unison*)

In the bringing of these gifts, we give You thanks, O Gentle One who touches our souls. Help us claim our strength and our awesomeness and fragile beauty, that this Advent compassion may be reborn in the human family and the face of the earth renewed. Amen.

***Benediction**

Congregational Response

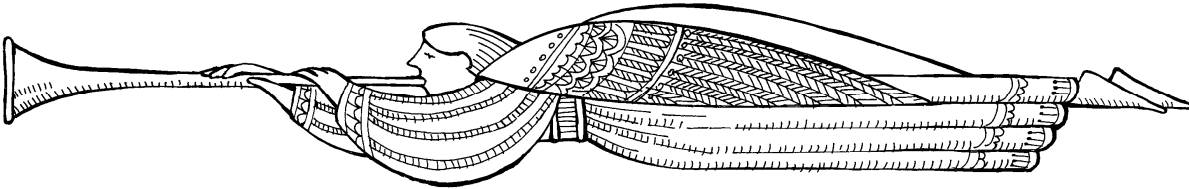
“Emmanuel”

No. 165

Organ Postlude

“Wachet Aug”

Karg-Elert



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.

Discernment Prayers for Our Church

Prayer time is on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month.

The next prayer date is **December 8**

Gert Klobuchar is moving on December 20, and despite a busy schedule will try and join us for Worship on Sunday, December 13. Gert promises to be in touch with her Illinois address once settled.

Gert, safe travels, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year in your new home.

St. John's Chapel UCC Staff

Rev. Becky Hebert

Pastor's Home: 882-0415 Cell: 773-6702

Pastor's E-mail: pastor@stjohnschapel.org

Secretary: Deb Hall

Church Office: 881-5175 FAX: 881-1647

Church E-mail: sec@stjohnschapel.org

Music Director - Chris Brammer

Organist - Vicky Claborn

Nursery Attendant - Lea Ann Kruger

Custodian - Lee Bartell

Keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Members:

Virginia Steury: is recuperating after a 3-week bout with a cold turned to pneumonia. Her cough persists, but she is very glad to be at home in Jan's care.

Jan Hale: visited the Chapel on Tuesday, her first day out of the house in 3 weeks (other than to the doctor's). Jan was recently ill with bronchitis and still has "that cough", but is feeling much, much better.

Alice Shoemaker: sprained her when she fell after Thanksgiving. During a pit stop returning from Nebraska, a curb got in her foot's way in St. Jo, M-O.

Sharon Haislip: continues to heal and be encouraged with each check-up and test result. The latest good news was received this week from both her oncologist and ear-nose & throat specialist. So far, "All clear".

Family and Friends:

Peggy Gilbert: (Friend of Tona Griggs) is battling aggressive breast cancer.

Josephine Walker: (Jeanne Kruger's mother) is at Magnolia Square, Room 228.

Joyce Johnson: (Friend of Glenda Weise), Her breast cancer has returned.

Todd McClain: (Cousin of Melissa Burnett) is undergoing extensive medical tests.

Our Stewardship for Sunday, November 29, 2009

Sunday School	20	Offering	\$14.00
Worship	112	Offering	\$1,727.00

Stewardship
for 2010



**NOW is the time to pledge your support of
OUR CHAPEL'S FUTURE
PLEDGE thoughtfully—GIVE from your heart**

The Independent Women are headed to The Tower Club
on December 13th on the occasion of their Christmas Luncheon, 2009

The Friendship Circle Christmas Party
is being hosted at the home of Cynthia Gromer~
December 15th • 6 pm

Only 7 more shopping days 'til our CROSSLINES toys are due!

Don't miss this opportunity to delight a child
by donating age-appropriate toys & clothing for a 0-23 month old~

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

Our 2009 Crosslines Toy Store Coordinator is Eleanor Lockhart, 881-3811.

Bring donations next Sunday~December 13!



Do you love "LIVE"? Visit SJC member, Linda Hines, at Price
Cutter (E. Battlefield & 65) where 6" poinsettias are \$7.99.

AND make a cash donation to the Friendship Circle Food Pan-
try Fund via the form below. Call Linda in "Floral" at 889-2352.

Deliveries to St. John's are FREE!



Let's surpass 2008's donation of 17 Poinsettias!

POINSETTIA DONATION FORM—DUE BY DECEMBER 13

Please Print

Donor's Name _____

Circle one:

Given in Memory Of _____

Given in Honor Of _____

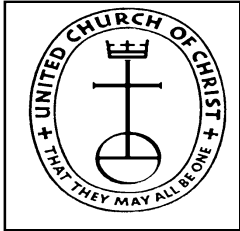
Today's Date _____

Thank you for caring, Esther Steinhauer

Attend **An Organ Concert** featuring Vicky Claborn, Thursday, December 10
at 12 noon. King's Way United Methodist Church, 2401 S. Lone Pine.

Enjoy the **Glendale High School Holiday Celebration** under the direction
of Chris Brammer, Friday, December 18 at 6:30 pm. Schweitzer United Method-
ist Church, 2747 E. Sunshine.





Worship — 10:30 AM

Pastor's Day Off — Friday

Secretary's Office Hours: 8:30 AM — 1:00 PM Monday-Friday

December 6, 2009

Jim May will open the church in December

- Today: Second Sunday of Advent..... 10:30 am
Advent Cantata
Bring Crosslines Food Today
Confirmation Class..... 5:00 pm
- Monday: Grace & Weight 5:30 pm
Board of Service Ministries Christmas Party 6:30 pm
- Tuesday: Crosslines Fish Day
Discernment Prayers 12:00 noon
Council..... 6:30 pm
- Wednesday: Spiritual Development..... 4:30 pm
Bells..... 6:30 pm
Chancel Choir 7:40 pm
- Thursday: Women's Guild Luncheon 12:00 noon
- Saturday: Children's Pageant Rehearsal followed by the Christmas Party 10:00 am
- Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent..... 10:30 pm
The Children's Pageant
The Congregational Budget Meeting immediately following Worship
Crosslines toy donations are due today~
Poinsettia donations are due today~
Independent Women's Christmas Luncheon at the Tower Club 1:00 pm
Confirmation Class..... 5:00 pm



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.