



The United Endeavor

DECEMBER 1972

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH BALTIMORE, MD. 21224



THE REVELATION AND ADVENT

The Revelation of St. John, the last book of the New Testament, about which we have been concerned in our Sunday meditations since the month of September and which concern we will resume after the holidays, this book of prophecy and revelation concerning God and Christ's plans, teaches the basic Christian dogma of the pre-existence of Jesus at the right and of Almighty God even as it teaches the presence of the glorified Christ at God's right hand in eternity.

As we enter another period of Advent, the pre-Christmas season, we note that the church teaches a dual interpretation of this first season of the Christian Church Year, which runs from the beginning of Advent thru to the beginning of another Advent. The first interpretation is to herald again the coming of the Lord as our Saviour, born at Bethlehem that first Christmas. Thus we rejoice in all the aspects of the Bethlehem story and embellish our Christian retelling with the meaningful practices of Christmas festivities at church and at home. These are all meaningful to us and should be enjoyed again in the knowledge we welcome the Lord Christ into our midst at Christmas.

The second interpretation is the same we've been celebrating in our series of meditations - the hope of Christ's coming, not as a Babe in Bethlehem, but as a glorified King in the second coming at that time when, in God's good pleasure and with the help of man, the Kingdom of God will be ushered in and evil will finally be banished from the earth. Then the perfect fellowship of God with His own will again be established.

Thus our emphasis during Advent will not be extremely different from that of past months. We will not deal directly with The Revelation and will include all the ceremonials of Advent and Christmas which are so meaningful to us, but the stress of Advent and Christmas will be a deeply spiritual one. Our meditations will be under the title "The Gospel of Christmas," or "Gods Word for Christmas." Each service will be a blessing to you, so don't miss a Sunday. Your faithfulness in worship and adoration is an important expectation by your God and His Church. Be with us in Advent.



ADVENT SUNDAYS

Dec. 3 - 1st Sunday in Advent

Communion Sunday, Early service at 7:45 a.m. Late service, 10:15. Ceremonial of the Hanging of the Greens. Lighting of the first candle of the Advent wreath. Sermon: "The Gospel of Christmas - Release from Fear." Advent carols and Advent music by our choir.

Dec. 10 - 2nd Sunday in Advent

Installation of newly elected members of Church Council. Ceremonial of the Wreaths. Candle two in Advent wreath. Sermon: "Gospel of Christmas - Joy."

Dec. 17 - 3rd Sunday in Advent

Ceremonial of the Creche. Candle three in Advent Wreath. Sermon: "Gospel of Christmas - Peace." Special Seminary Offering. Tinsel Day in p.m.

Dec. 24 - 4th Sunday in Advent

No 8 a.m. service this Sunday, due to special evening service. Only 10:15 a.m. service. Ceremonial of the Christmas Tree. Fourth candle in Advent wreath. New members received into fellowship.

Dec. 31 - Sunday after Christmas

No 8 a.m. service this Sunday, due to special evening service. Only 10:15 a.m. service. Service in the glow of Christmas. Sermon by Pastor Rasche for last Sunday of year.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SERVICES

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Christmas service for the Church School will be on Sunday, Dec 24 at the hour of 9, in the church sanctuary. Church School members are asked to come directly to the sanctuary that morning. Service will conclude by 9:30 and then the departments will have their own Christmas celebration, with the giving of gifts.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE - 8 P.M.

Again we look forward to this very beautiful Christmas Eve service, a service of beauty & meaningfulness. There will be only one Christmas Eve service this year. Ceremony of candlelighting, music by our choir and organist. Singing of beautiful Christmas songs. Glow of our Christmas tree. Sermon by Pastor Rasche

NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE 8 P.M.

Be with us in God's House on the last night of 1972. Proper way to give God thanks for blessings. Service planned for one hour duration.



TINSEL DAY — A FESTIVE TIME

Sunday, Dec. 17 is Tinsel Day, a day which is outstanding for its joy and fellowship.

The special events begin with a noon dinner for all the church family, a prepared dinner. No tickets are sold but contributions toward the cost of the dinner are requested by adult heads of families. The dinner is approximately at 11:45, after the morning service.

In the afternoon the members of the Church School gather in their departments to decorate for Christmas. At the same time the older youth are invited to decorate the sanctuary tree, while the adults have the opportunity to engage in handwork, making some article for the home Christmas.

At approximately 2:30 the group gathers in the sanctuary for the carol sing and the lighting of the Christmas tree, which event is followed by the closing events in the Friendship Hall and adjournment at 4 p.m.



ANNUAL REMINDERS

Poinsettia Fund - Again we desire to bank the altar with poinsettia plants at Christmas. We thus invite your contributions to the Poinsettia Fund, either through cash gifts to the Fund or Memorial Gifts. The poinsettia will be about the altar for Sunday, Dec. 24 and the entire Christmas season. Help us to make our altar lovely again this year.

Christmas Memorials - If you are desirous to place a memorial with the church at Christmas, in memory of a departed loved one, we invite you to have them turned into the office by Dec. 17. so that the brochure may be ready for the service on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 8:00 P.M. at which service the Memorial Service will be included.

1973 Church Envelope Sets - Soon it will be 1973 and time for a new set of offering envelopes. We are prepared to offer you a set if you have used your set in 1972. If so, a set will be prepared for you and can be picked up from the tables in Friendship Hall by Sunday, Dec. 10. If, however, you have not used the 1972 set, no new set will be prepared unless you request it from the Pastor. If you do not have church envelopes, you are not a contributing member of the church. We want each individual member to have envelopes and to use them consistently through the year. We cannot credit gifts to your name if we do not have the record of these gifts through envelope giving.

Christmas Baskets - Each year our church, cooperating with the other churches of Canton, prepare Christmas baskets for the needy. To do so requires much canned goods, staple foods and cash gifts. Will you assist in this venture by the bringing of such foods and gifts to the church by Sunday, Dec. 17th, that the baskets may be prepared during that week. Thank you.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO BE SOUGHT

At the special congregational meeting on Sun. Oct. 29, the congregation voted unanimously to authorize the Church Council to seek an Associate Pastor for the church, a second full-time minister. The Council has begun work to fulfill this charge, communications have been addressed to our Central Atlantic Conference as well as Eden and Lancaster Seminary to help secure the proper man for our needs.

Incidentally, this action will require a greatly enlarged budget for 1973 and thereafter. On Nov. 12th the Finance Committee presented the proposed budget (to be acted upon at the Congregational meeting) and revealed that it has been increased by some \$12 to \$13 thousand dollars. This means that each of us need to consider an increase in our giving.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FRIDAY, DEC. 1, 1972

8 P.M.
in FELLOWSHIP HALL

Election of new members to
the Church Council
Presentation of 1973 proposed
budget and action on same.

Refreshments and fellowship



SEMINARY OFFERING IN DECEMBER

As you may well know, the financial picture of many of our Protestant denominations is becoming increasingly critical. Our own national church, the United Church of Christ, has come upon grave financial lacks in the proper continuation of its multi-faceted work. The reason for this is that local churches, our own included, have not sent in sufficient benevolent funds to keep the world-wide programs going. Recently your pastor attended the meeting of the Board for World Ministries of the UCC, which Board of some 225 members have the responsibility of carrying on all the work of our church outside the limits of the U.S. For the third or fourth consecutive year this Board has had to curtail the program of proclaiming God's Word to peoples of the world - Africa, India, South America, Micronesia, etc., because we don't have the money. Missionaries have been called home. Where several years ago we had some 500 missionaries, we now have been 200 and 300. So goes the story.

Another place in which curtailment of funds has become apparent is in the decision not to support our Seminaries from funds of the national church. Our Seminaries are the schools wherein men are trained to become clergy. Now the Seminaries

have to look at the local churches directly for support. Thus your Council has decided to have two offerings in the next months- one yet in '72 and another in '73, for the support of scholarships for young men who may want to enter our Eden or Lancaster Seminary and do not have sufficient funds.

Thus on Sunday, Dec. 17 you will find envelopes in your bulletins in which we invite you to place a special offering for this cause. Education is expensive, education for the ministry is expensive, thus make your offering as generous as you possibly can. Maybe the day will come when a Pastor of this church will be one you've helped in this special way.



**KEY
73**

God has a message He wants us to deliver. He loves us so much He forgives all our sins through His Son, Jesus. The message is about this love and forgiveness. He wants us to deliver it to all people.

Key 73 is a program of telling of this love of the Christ in which 130 denominations and countless thousands of local cooperating groups of churches are participating for all of 1973, "Calling the Continent to Christ" is the theme, the key to our combined actions in evangelism in 1973.

Key 73 begins in the local church working as an individual congregation or with other congregations in this great program. In our Canton-Highlandtown area our churches are banding together for this effective program in the area of evangelism.

The first events have already been planned for our larger community. Beginning in the spirit of prayer, the period from Christmas thru Jan. 6 has been set aside for prayers each 12-12:20 noon by all our folk, and on 2 days of each of these weeks, churches will be open for prayers. Here is the schedule -

Date	Canton	Highlandtown
Dec. 27	United Evang.	Wesley Meth.
Dec. 29	Canton Meth.	Immanuel Luth
Jan. 3	Holy Evangel	Abbott Mem.
Jan. 5	Salvation Army	Nazareth Luth

Sunday, Jan. 7 will be "Launch Sunday" in each local church, getting the program underway. In the evening of that day we will have a community service. More later.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms -

Todd Calvin, son of Bruce S. and Bonita Martin, on Sept. 24
Rachel Marie, daughter of John and Bonnie DiGioglio, on Oct. 29

Christina Louisa, daughter of Edward and Marie Hare on Nov. 12

Weddings -

Armand W. Coccogna and Anna Denlein on Oct. 22

Everett E. Voelker and Vickie L. White on Oct. 22

David Hines, Jr. and Norma Paquin on Nov. 12

Funerals -

Frederick L. Decker, age 75 on Oct. 25 (service by Rev. R. Cook)

John H. Hutchins, age 74 yrs. on Oct. 25 (service by Rev. C. Carolus)

Edward Kellner, Sr., member, age 85 on Nov. 11

AN INQUIRY FROM 100TH ANNIV. COMMITTEE

The enclosed flyer gives news of a proposed anniversary project - the publication of a pictorial directory, containing pictures of church folk and families plus a listing of church membership as to names.

The pictures may include family groups (immediate family group and not entire family relationships) or be of individuals.

Getting picture taken does not preclude purchase. It is still used for the book.

Picture must be acceptable to person or family before it will be used

THE UNITED ENDEAVOR

Published each month, except

July and August

by

The United Evangelical Church

United Church of Christ

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Baltimore, Maryland 21224

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Worship

Each Sunday — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

(7:45 a.m. each Communion Sunday)

Church School — 9:00 a.m.