

iucc Irvine United Congregational Church

*An Open & Affirming, Just Peace, Global Mission, Creation Justice
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

December 24, 2023 • 11:15am

CHRISTMAS EVE

Gathering

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

By Brian Doerksen (adapted Gary Barmore)

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

Ev'ry day we live in the light of God's love,
Ev'ry day we walk by faith.
Now we're here to open our hearts once more,
Now we give thanks for grace.

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

Ev'ry day we live in the light of God's love,
Ev'ry day we walk by faith.
Now we're here to open our hearts once more,
Now we give thanks for grace.

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

Come, come, come!

Singing

All You Need is Love

by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

There's nothing you can do that can't be done

Nothing you can sing that can't be sung

Nothing you can say, but you can learn how to play the game

It's easy

Nothing you can make that can't be made

No one you can save that can't be saved

Nothing you can do, but you can learn how to be you in time

It's easy

All you need is love

All you need is love

All you need is love, love

Love is all you need

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

Love, love, love

All you need is love

All you need is love

All you need is love, love

Love is all you need

There's nothing you can know that isn't known

Nothing you can see that isn't shown

There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be

It's easy

All you need is love

All you need is love

All you need is love, love

Love is all you need

All you need is love

All you need is love

All you need is love, love

Love is all you need

Love is all you need (love is all you need)

Love is all you need (love is all you need)

Love is all you need (love is all you need)

Love is all you need (love is all you need)

Love is all you need (love is all you need)

Love is all you need (love is all you need)

Love is all you need (love is all you need)

Love is all you need (love is all you need)

Love is all you need (love is all you need)

Centering

Jaime Reza

With Hope, we have waited for the birth of the Christ-child;

We have waited. We prepared. We are ready!

With Peace, we pray for the world, we pray for our communities, we pray for peace in our hearts.

The Prince of Peace leads us onward.

With Joy, we expectantly prepare for the Good News of which the angel sings;

Joyfully we celebrate the birth of the one light breaking into our world again.

With Love, we give selflessly, knowing God has given us the most wonderful gift;

God's love is in us, through the gift of Jesus the Christ.

And so, with the advent of the Christ, the hope of the hurting, the promise of peace,

the joy of the world, the love of a mother—we pray:

May Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love shine forth from us to light the world!

The baby is coming!

Lighting

The Furtado Family

Reader 1:

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'"

(Luke 1:34)

And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name."

(Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2:

We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation:

We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1:

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Congregational Response

A candle is burning, a candle of Love;

A candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;

For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.

Playing

Fresh Word

Praying

Craig Tyrl
Administrative Pastor IUCC

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

By Ken Medema

Lord, Listen to your children praying, Lord, Send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace
(repeat).

Offering

We Are an Offering

By Dwight Liles

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.
God, use our voices, God, use our hands,
God, use your lives, they are yours,
We are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you;
we are an offering, we are an offering.

Soloing

Breath of Heaven

Joy Dorko
by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton

Reading

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from

Learning

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Sending

Carry the Light

By Debby Moylan

We have all witnessed your presence,
We have received your grace.
We give you honor and glory,
For moving in this place.

Now we go out to share the good news.

Now we go out to share your love.

Now we go out to share the good news.

Now we go out to share your love:

Carry the light! Carry the light!
Carry the light to all the Earth!
Carry the light! Carry the light!
Carry the light of Jesus Christ!

Departing

Music reprinted under CCLI License #2783305 or OneLicense #A-709940.

Video clips shown under CVLI License #504399168.

The Church Office will be closed 12/26/22-1/2/23

Administrative Pastor, Craig Tyrl will begin on 1/1/23

Heidi and Craig are in the church office M-Th (949-733-0220);

Pastor Sarah is off through 01/04/2024 and can be reached by email or text to 714-293-0241.

Our Staff

Senior Pastor

Administrative Pastor

Director of Music

Accompanist

Early Childhood Director

Bookkeeper

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Craig Tyrl, MA, MFA

Dr. Chris Peterson

Yuyoung Jeong

Irma Rosales

Heidi Willcox

PastorSarah@iucc.org

craig@iucc.org

chris@iucc.org

yyoungjeong@gmail.com

irma@iucc.org

heidi@iucc.org



Irvine United Congregational Church

4915 Alton Parkway, Irvine CA 92604

949-733-0220