

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

January 7, 2024 • 9:30am

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Prelude

On the Meadow

Yuyoung Jeong, piano

Op. 92, No. 5 by Heinrich Lichner

Gathering Song

As We Gather

Congregation

by Coomes & Fay

As we gather may your Spirit work within us
As we gather may we glorify your name
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship
We'll be blessed because we came
(Repeat)

Welcome

iucc.org/visitor

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Gong

Introit

Amen, Amen!

Chancel Choir

arr. Nelsie T. Johnson

Call to Worship

Tricia Aynes

One: We are still in the darkness, scanning the sea of night above us, searching...

**Many: Our eyes squint to see it. Our hearts jump at each spec of diamond.
Our breath catches.**

One: Will we encounter the star? Will we find the light?

Many: We spot it. Sojourners on an illumined path, we follow its direction.

One: Will we find the Star-Child?

Many: What shall we do if we find him?

One: When we arrive we'll know.

Many: We're nearly there, the bright light leads us.

All: The wisdom of the cradle calls us on.

Hymn***The Three Wise Ones*****Congregation**

Three wise ones from far-away are,
 bearing gifts they traverse afar .
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 following yonder star!

O Star of wonder, star of night,
 Star with royal beauty bright.
 Westward leading, still proceeding,
 Guide us to thy Perfect Light.

Herod called upon the wise ones,
 come to me when your search is done.
 Searching, seeking, lands far-reaching,
 finding the Holy Son. (chorus)

Kneeling down in homage that day,
 for a child that will light the way.
 Glad rejoicing, never voicing,
 where this Christ-Child lays. (chorus)

Glorious now behold the Christ Child,
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild.
 Alleluia, Alleluia,
 Christ, the Saviour, is born. (chorus)

A Fresh Word**Anthem*****The Work of Christmas***

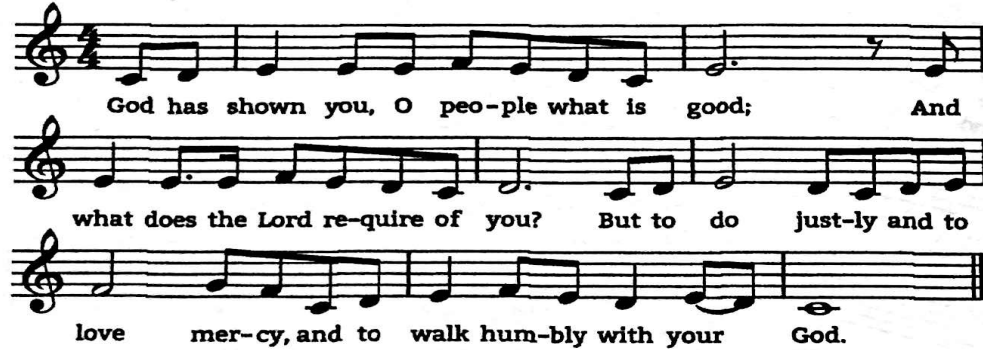
by Jacob Narverud

Chancel Choir**Reflective Singing****"Holy Spirit Come to Us"
J. Berthier****Prayers of the Church****Rev. Steve Swope**

Our Creator (Father, Mother, or other name as you are comfortable),
 which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory Call**Tricia Aynes**

Song of Thanksgiving • "Micah 6:8"



Prayer of Dedication

Tricia Aynes

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

Tricia Aynes

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.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Communion Invitation

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Communion Music

One Bread, One Body
by John B. Foley

Dr. Chris Peterson

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord. (refrain)

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more. (refrain)
Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. (refrain)
Grain for the field, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all (refrain)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Congregation

**For love shared and hope renewed,
for promises remembered and Christs among us,
for the feasts of this life and those to come,
we give you thanks, O God. Send us forth to reconcile and make new,
praising life in the midst of death, bearing hope on angels' wings,
and giving thanks always and everywhere that life is precious beyond all telling.
Alleluia and Amen.**

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Response

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Congregation

African American Spiritual, arr John W. Work (NCH #154 v 1,3)

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born! (refrain)

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Postlude

Valse Bleue

Yuyoung Jeong, piano

by Alfred Margis

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