

iucc Irvine United Congregational Church

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

December 10, 2023 • 9:30am

SECOND SUNDAY ADVENT

Prelude ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*** **Yuyoung Jeong, piano**
(arr. Mark Hayes)

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 ***We Hail You God's Anointed*** **Chancel Choir**
James Montgomery (New Century Hymnal #104)

Call to Worship **August Lobato**

One: As we gather on this second Sunday of Advent, our hearts are filled with anticipation and hope. The journey toward the manger continues.

Many: Just as Mary and Joseph traveled the rough road to Bethlehem fraught with struggles along the way, our path always leads us through darkness as we recognize the turmoil, strife, and unrest in our world.

One: The light of hope illuminates our way as we turn our hearts and prayers to peace.

Many: We wait with anxious anticipation for the Prince of Peace to lead us to a transformation of our world.

All: Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Light the way to Christmas.

Hymn ***Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*** **Congregation**
by Charles Wesley (New Century Hymnal #122)

Come, O long expected Jesus
Born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Grant us your true liberty.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation,
Enter every longing heart.

Born all people to deliver,
Born a child you came to reign,
Born to rule on earth forever,
Come, be known to us again.

By your own eternal Spirit,
Come to claim us as your own;
By your all sufficient merit,
Let us share your cross and crown.

Lighting of Advent Wreath

The Wall Family

Reader 1: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader 3: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Congregational Response

A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.

A Fresh Word

Anthem

Shepherd's Pipe Carol
by John Rutter

Chancel Choir

New Member Joining

Congregation: We recognize the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth as a real and important force in the universe. Will you join us in this faith?

New Member: I now join with you to trust and celebrate God's love.

Congregation: We are committed to a daily endeavor to let God's spirit re-mold our lives from within. Will you join us in this endeavor?

New Member: I commit to grow with you.

Congregation: We believe ourselves to be one family, bound together by God's love. Therefore, we seek in every way we can to make that love believable for each other. Will you join us in this mutual ministry?

New Member: I will. I entrust to you both my needs and my gifts.

Congregation: Will you now unite with us in our covenant?

ALL: We join together with God and with each other to provide an environment open for all to worship God, to develop Christian values, to share life's experiences, to strive for truth, justice and peace, and to respond with compassion to the needs of others. We do this in the love of Jesus and in our desire to do the will of God.

Reflective Singing "Holy Spirit Come to Us" J. Berthier



Prayers of the Church

Rev. Dr. Gerry von Talge

(concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

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

August Lobato

Prayer of Dedication

August Lobato

Scripture***Isaiah 11:6-9*****August Lobato**

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Sermon**Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano****Benediction****Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano****Response*****Alleluia*****Congregation**

by Jerry Sinclair

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*****Yuyoung Jeong, piano**

arr. Stan Zielinski

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

Video clips shown under CVLI License #504399168.

Our Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

PastorSarah@iucc.org

Administrative Pastor

Craig Tyrl, MA, MFA

craig@iucc.org

Director of Music

Dr. Chris Peterson

chris@iucc.org

Accompanist

Yuyoung Jeong

yyoungjeong@gmail.com

Early Childhood Director

Irma Rosales

irma@iucc.org

Bookkeeper

Heidi Willcox

heidi@iucc.org**Irvine United Congregational Church**

4915 Alton Parkway, Irvine CA 92604

949-733-0220