



Irvine United Congregational Church

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

December 6, 2020 – 11:00 AM

Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude *People, Look East* Joshua Chandra
Trad. French Carol

Gathering Song IUCC Voices

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 the Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Call to Worship August Lobato, Jr.

One: Can you hear it?

Many: What is it?

One: A voice cries out: "Prepare the way" declaring a promise of peace.

Many: And yet we wonder, is this just an idyllic tale of old?

Is peace possible? Can Christmas really come?

One: A wilderness people wander, isolated and alone, hungry with hope,
believing even in the darkness.

Many: We strain our ears to listen, we open our eyes to see.

One: It sounds different. It looks different. And yet...

Many: A cry, a whisper, a song!

One: O come, O come Emmanuel!

Many: Break forth your light, Christmas is coming.

Introit *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Intern Quartet
Trad. French; arr. Thomas Helmore

Lighting the Advent Candles Teri & Eric Houston

Candle Response *I Choose Peace* Chris Peterson, Dir. of Music
by Brownie Macintosh

A Fresh Word David Perez, MYP director

Hymn

Star Child
by Shirley Erena Murray

Chris Peterson

Star child, earth child, go between of God
Love child, Christ child, heaven's lightning rod
(*Refrain*) This year, this year let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive
Grown child, old child, memory full of years
Sad child, lost child, story told in tears
(*Refrain*)

Prayers of the Church

Pastor Sarah

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

iucc.org/giving

Offertory Music

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
Orig. secular dance tune

Joshua Chandra

Prayer of Dedication

August Lobato, Jr.

Anthem

African Noel
by Andre Thomas

Chancel Choir

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-6a, 9-11

August Lobato, Jr.

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.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!...”

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Sermon

Prepare

Pastor Sarah

Communion Invitation

Pastor Sarah

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**For love shared and hope renewed, for promises remembered and
Christ 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		Pastor Sarah
Response	<i>Alleluia!</i>	IUCC Voices
Postlude	<i>O Come, Divine Messiah</i> <i>Trad. French carol (16th century)</i>	Joshua Chandra

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CONCERN AMERICA VIRTUAL FAIR-TRADE CRAFT SALE!

From Dec. 6-20, IUCC will host a Virtual Fair-Trade Craft Sale featuring unique and quality handcrafts that provide us the opportunity to “buy gifts with a purpose.” We have long welcomed Concern America in person to sell their beautiful and life transforming handcrafts, and this year the sale will be online at marketplace.concernamerica.org.

Take advantage of Free Shipping when you spend \$75 or more by using coupon code# **IUCC2020** at checkout. Also please add the name of your church (IUCC) to the note section of checkout.

This year there are many new handcrafted textiles, ceramics and wood products from Bangladesh, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Mozambique. When a Concern America product is purchased, we are providing a source of income to materially poor families while supporting community development, protecting the environment, and ensuring fair working conditions and fair prices earned for their work.

Concern America is an international development organization based in Santa Ana that builds capacity in health care, clean water, education, and economic opportunities. You may learn more about their work, donate directly to them, and view the selection of their crafts on their web site: www.concernamerica.org.

This Week at IUCC

Links to join Zoom events are in the Tuesday & Friday email-updates

[Sign up on our website!](#)

New Member Gathering	on Zoom	Today at 9:30 AM
Virtual Coffee Hour	on Zoom	Today at 12:00 PM
Budget Forum	on Zoom	Today at 12:30 PM
Advent Workshop	on Zoom	Today at 4:30 PM
Mission & Service Ministry	on Zoom	Mon. at 6:00 PM
Adult Bible Study	on Zoom	Tues. at 4:00 PM
<i>Story of King David! Reading in 2 Samuel</i>		
Childcare Center Comm.	on Zoom	Tues. at 6:30 PM
Worship Next Sunday	on Facebook	at 11:00 AM
https://www.facebook.com/irvineucc or www.iucc.org		
Congregational Meeting	on Zoom	Next Sunday at 12:30 PM

IUCC Office Hours

Pastor Steve & Heidi are in the church office (949-733-0220) M-Th;
Steve checks messages and email on Fridays.

Pastor Sarah is off on Fridays; during the rest of the week she can
be reached at PastorSarah@iucc.org or 714-293-0241.

Our Staff

<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>the Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano</i>	<i>PastorSarah@iucc.org</i>
<i>Administrative Pastor</i>	<i>the Rev. Steve Swope</i>	<i>steve@...</i>
<i>MYP Director</i>	<i>David Perez</i>	<i>davidp@...</i>
<i>Director of Music</i>	<i>Dr. Chris Peterson</i>	<i>chris@...</i>
<i>Accompanist</i>	<i>Joshua Chandra</i>	<i>josh@...</i>
<i>Choral Interns</i>	<i>Brianna Finnell</i>	
	<i>Jacob Hall</i>	
<i>Worship Technology</i>	<i>Alyssa Wilkens</i>	<i>alyssa@...</i>
<i>Early Childhood Director</i>	<i>Irma Rosales</i>	<i>irma@...</i>
<i>Bookkeeper</i>	<i>Heidi Willcox</i>	<i>heidi@...</i>

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