

Irvine United Congregational Church

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

December 11, 2022 • 9:30 & 11 AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prelude

Reaching

Yuyoung Jeong

arr. Mark Hayes

Gathering Song

As We Gather

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

the Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Introit

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

IUCC Chancel Choir

by Stephen Schwartz

Call to Worship

August Lobato, Jr.

One: The God of Advent calls us into this space. Out of the heaviness of the world, where fear is prevalent, and anxiety high.

Many: We will trust, and will not be afraid.

One: As the young girl trembled at the news, the angel commanded: "Do not be afraid." When we find ourselves trembling...

Many: We will trust, and will not be afraid.

One: A promise of hope, a path to peace, a smile reminds us that joy is available. Even as we walk in the shadows...

Many: We will trust, and will not be afraid.

One: Break forth in song! Joy is a gift! In thanksgiving, make a joyful noise: sing out loud!

Many: We will trust, and will not be afraid. Our song encourages us, our joy cannot be contained!

ALL: *Emmanuel, we come with awe, wonder, and a wellspring of joy! Come, Emmanuel and open our hearts to Christmas!*

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

NCH #116

John Mason Neale/Henry Sloane Coffin

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the child of God appear.***

refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

***O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadows put to flight.***
refrain

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Blackburn/Louie Family

Congregational Response: *Come, let us walk in the light of God!*

Response in Song:

sung to "Away in a Manger"

Dr. Chris Peterson

**A candle is burning, a candle of Joy;
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow.
As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

A Fresh Word

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter

IUCC Chancel Choir

Arr. Mark Shepperd

Prayers of the Church

Chaplain Richard Davenport

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.**

Song

Star-Child

Dr. Chris Peterson

by S. E. Murray & C. Young

***Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,
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.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

***Spared child, spoiled child, having wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

Offertory
Offertory Music
Prayer of Dedication

August Lobato, Jr.

Scripture

Matthew 11:2-6

August Lobato, Jr.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Sermon

Pastor Sarah

Benediction

Pastor Sarah

Response

Alleluia

by Jerry Sinclair

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (Repeat)

Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Yuyoung Jeong

arr. Mark Hayes

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