

Irvine United Congregational Church

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

December 18, 2022 • 9:30 & 11 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prelude

There's a Song in the Air

Yuyoung Jeong

arr. Fred Bock

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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

IUCC Chancel Choir

translated Theodore Baker

Call to Worship

One: We come in search of love, on a mission to find peace, with the hope of experiencing joy!

Many: We come in search of Christmas!

One: From the hectic busyness of our lives,

Many: Out of the darkness of our wounded hearts,

One: We've been waiting, anticipating, praying and believing! All the while...

Many: We look for the light!

One: Light our lives with hope, peace, joy and love!

Many: Child of Love, we await your coming. God be with us, Emmanuel!

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

NCH #133

Phillips Brooks

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in your dark streets shine forth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.***

***For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love,
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing, and voices ring with peace to all the earth.***

***How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven
No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin,
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.***

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Dennerline 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 Love;
A candle aflame like the stars up above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;
For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.***

A Fresh Word

Anthem

Shepherd's Pipe Carol
John Rutter

IUCC Chancel Choir

Prayers of the Church

The Rev. Dr. Terry LePage

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
by S. E. Murray & C. Young

Dr. Chris Peterson

***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!***

***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!***

***Hope-for-Peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine.
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

Offertory
Offertory Music
Prayer of Dedication

Scripture 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 her.

Christmas Pageant "Look Up!" The Young People of IUCC

Benediction Pastor Sarah

Response **Alleluia**
by Jerry Sinclair

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

Postlude **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing** Yuyoung Jeong
arr. Fred Bock

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*Today's Altar Flowers are given by Heidi & Mark Willcox
in honor of their granddaughter Colette (3) and their grandson Clayton (1)
on their birthdays.*