

iucc Irvine United Congregational Church

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

January 8, 2023 • 9:30am & 11:00am

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Prelude *Lord, I Need You!* Yuyoung Jeong
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

Introit *Amen Amen* Chancel Choir
arr. Nelsie T. Johnson African American Spiritual

Soloists: Becky Roach, Joy Dorko, Lester Ricks, Connie Jones

Call to Worship Lesli Mitchell

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 speck 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: Follow the star. The wisdom of the cradle calls us onward.

Hymn *Brightest and Best* NCH 156
by Reginald Heber, 1811, v. 1,2,3, 4

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our midnight and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Cold on the cradle the dew drops are shining, God's holy Child with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore while this baby lies sleeping, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.*

*Shall we not offer our costly devotion, fragrance of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest of gold from the mine?*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would we favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration; dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

A Fresh Word

Anthem

The Work of Christmas

by Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir

Prayers of the Church

Rev. Jerry 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

Lesli Mitchell

Offertory Music

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn

We Three Kings

Methodist Hymnal #253

by John H. Hopkins v. 1,2,5

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. (refrain)

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (refrain)

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice; Alleluia, Alleluia, sound through the earth and skies. (refrain)

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

Lesli Mitchell

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

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

You are invited to partake in the IUCC tradition of angel cards on Epiphany Sunday. You are welcome to draw an inspiring word to inspire and uplift you in 2023.

Response

Alleluia

Congregation

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

Postlude

The Church's One Foundation

Yuyoung Jeong

arr. Mark Hayes

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