

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

March 19, 2023 • 11:15am

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Gathering

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

By Brian Doerksen (adapted Gary Barmore)

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you before your God.
Come.

Ev'ry day we live in the light of God's love,
Ev'ry day we walk by faith.
Now we're here to open our hearts once more,
Now we give thanks for grace.

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
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Come just as you before your God.
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Come just as you before your God.
Come.

Come, come, come!

Centering

JAIME REZA

Desert Prayer

By Jan Richardson

I am not asking you
to take this wilderness from me,
to remove this place of starkness
where I come to know
the wildness within me,
where I learn to call the names
of the ravenous beasts
that pace inside me,
to finger the brambles
that snake through my veins,
to taste the thirst
that tugs at my tongue.

But send me
tough angels,
sweet wine,
strong bread:
just enough.

Singing

Celebrate the Lord of Love

By Paul Baloche

Trade your heavy heart for a heart of joy;
celebrate what God has done.
Join the song of praise as we gather here;
celebrate the Lord of Love.

Jesus leads the way God is present here.
We declare, God's kin-dom's come.
Darkness has to flee in his holy light;
celebrate the Lord of Love.

All creation sings;
hear the ocean roar.
Let the earth proclaim that the Christ is Love!

Playing

Fresh Word

Praying

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

By Ken Medema

Lord, Listen to your children praying, Lord, Send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Offering

We Are an Offering

By Dwight Liles

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.

God, use our voices, God, use our hands,
God, use your lives, they are yours,
We are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you;
we are an offering, we are an offering.

Reading

Mark 1:1-10

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." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice

Learning

Forgiveness and the Third Agreement

Craig Tyrl, Administrative Pastor

Sending

Pastor Sarah

Carry the Light

By Debby Moylan

We have all witnessed your presence,
We have received your grace.
We give you honor and glory,
For moving in this place.

Now we go out to share the good news.
Now we go out to share your love.
Now we go out to share the good news.
Now we go out to share your love:

Carry the light! Carry the light!
Carry the light to all the Earth!

Carry the light! Carry the light!
Carry the light of Jesus Christ!

Departing

Lost in the Wilderness from Children of Eden

By Stephen Schwartz

Our Staff

Senior Pastor
Administrative Pastor
Director of Music
Accompanist
Early Childhood Director
Bookkeeper

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