

iucc Irvine United Congregational Church

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

December 3, 2023 • 11:15am

FIRST SUNDAY ADVENT

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 are 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.
Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

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Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

Come, come, come!

Singing

Star-Child

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!

Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
Hurt child, used child no one wants to know
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!

Centering

Jenna Hansen

Now is the time to wake from sleep,
to keep watch and stay alert.
Now is the time to look for the light,
to prepare ourselves for Christ.
For the tables are about to turn over,
Those on the margins will be welcomed in.
The powerful will be brought down from their thrones, The lowly raised up and the hungry filled.
Now is the time to be ready, Now is the time to hope.
God will make all things new. Christmas is coming!

Lighting

The Ratinoff Family

Reader 1:

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at
your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make
your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did
awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before
you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2:

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for
deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of
the house will come" (Mark 13:35).

Congregation:

We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.

Reader 1:

We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

Congregational Response:

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;
A candle of Hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heav'n's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is night.

Playing

Fresh Word

Praying

Craig Tyrl

Administrative Pastor IUCC

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 13:27,32-37

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Learning

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Communing

Pastor Sarah

Draw the Circle Wide

by Mark Miller

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stand alone,
standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

Sending

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

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