

iucc Irvine United Congregational Church

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

December 10, 2023 • 11:15am

SECOND 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!

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!

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

Jaime Reza

As we gather on this second Sunday of Advent, our hearts are filled with anticipation and hope.

The journey toward the manger continues.

Just as Mary and Joseph traveled the rough road to Bethlehem fraught with struggles along the way, our path always leads us through darkness as we recognize the turmoil, strife, and unrest in our world.

The light of hope illuminates our way as we turn our hearts and prayers to peace.

We wait with anxious anticipation for the Prince of Peace to lead us to a transformation of our world.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Light the way to Christmas.

Lighting

The Wall Family

Reader 1:

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins"
(Isaiah 40:1).

Reader 2:

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation:

We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader 3:

We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Congregational Response

**A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.**

Playing

Fresh Word

JOINING

New Member Joining

Congregation:

We recognize the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth as a real and important force in the universe. Will you join us in this faith?

New Member:

I now join with you to trust and celebrate God's love.

Congregation:

We are committed to a daily endeavor to let God's spirit re-mold our lives from within. Will you join us in this endeavor?

New Member:

I commit to grow with you.

Congregation:

We believe ourselves to be one family, bound together by God's love. Therefore, we seek in every way we can to make that love believable for each other. Will you join us in this mutual ministry?

New Member:

I will. I entrust to you both my needs and my gifts.

Congregation:

Will you now unite with us in our covenant?

ALL:

We join together with God and with each other to provide an environment open for all to worship God, to develop Christian values, to share life's experiences, to strive for truth, justice and peace, and to respond with compassion to the needs of others. We do this in the love of Jesus and in our desire to do the will of God.

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
(repeat).

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

Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Learning

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

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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