

# **iucc** Irvine United Congregational Church

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

*December 31, 2023 • 11:15am*

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

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## **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.

Come, now is the time to worship;  
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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.

Come, come, come!

## **Singing**

### ***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.

## **Centering**

**Jenna Hansen**

During the season of advent,  
we symbolically waited for the Christ light to appear by first lighting the hope,  
peace, joy, and love candles encircling the advent wreath.  
Until finally it was time to light the Christ candle on Christmas eve.  
And now we can carry that Christmas light into a brand new year  
since the earth is completing its circle around the sun once again.  
As we look back to reflect on this past year,  
we can notice any circles in our lives that may have been completed,  
and those that are still in process.  
God of Light and Love,  
encircle us with your light as we navigate our lives in this New Year.  
Help us become more aware of how the experiences in our lives teach us to strengthen our  
hope, witness more peace, feel more joy, and share more love.  
But, most of all, help us reflect the light of Christ to all we meet.

## **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.

## **Sharing**

*I Know Where I've Been*

**Lester Ricks**

by Marc Shaimna and Scott Wittman

## **Reading**

*Matthew 22:34-40*

The Voice

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, a group of Pharisees met to consider new questions that might trip up Jesus. A legal expert thought of one that would certainly stump Him.

### **Pharisees:**

Teacher, of all the laws, which commandment is the greatest?

### **Jesus (quoting Scripture):**

“Love the Eternal One your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is nearly as important, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The rest of the law, and all the teachings of the prophets, are but variations on these themes.

## **Learning**

**Jerri Davenport M.Div.**

## **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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### Our Staff

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