

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

January 14, 2024 • 11:15am

MARTIN LUTHER KING SUNDAY

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 before your God.
Come.

Come, come, come!

Connecting

(opportunity to greet one another)

Singing

Life Every Voice and Sing

New Century Hymnal # 593 (v. 1, 3)

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise
high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun
of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
God who hast brought us thus far on the way,
God who hast by your might
led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
shadowed beneath your hand,
may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Centering

Joy Dorko

We gather in the spirit of love and unity,
as we recognize the profound impact of a dream and the journey toward justice.
We gather seeking to be a diverse and inclusive community,
embracing the call to justice that resounds through the ages.
In the words of Dr. King, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
Let us join together in the light of love, seeking justice and peace for all.
May our hearts be open, our minds attentive,
and our spirits stirred as we embark on this journey of remembrance, reflection, and commitment.

Let our remembrance call us to action in the present struggle for justice,
and let the life of Dr. King whose faithful response to Jesus inspired him,
inspire us to work towards creating a world where all are treated with dignity and respect.
May the love that transcends boundaries, unite us as one human family.
With hearts attuned to the rhythms of justice, compassion, and equality,
we gather to be the Beloved Community.
Amen.

Fresh Word

Ministry with Young People

Praying

Craig Tyrl

Administrative Pastor

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

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

Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Learning

Rev. William Summerville

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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