

# **iucc** Irvine United Congregational Church

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

March 10, 2024 • 9:30am

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

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**Prelude**

**Yuyoung Jeong, piano**

**Gathering Song**

***As We Gather***  
by Coomes & Fay

**Congregation**

As we gather may your Spirit work within us  
As we gather may we glorify your name  
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship  
We'll be blessed because we came  
(Repeat)

**Welcome**

[iucc.org/visitor](http://iucc.org/visitor)

**Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano**

**Gong**

**Introit**

***Wondrous Love***  
by Paul Christainsen

**Chancel Choir**

**Call to Worship**

**Christine Roy**

One: Our journey through Lent continues as we follow the one who followed the one.

**Many: Peter's wandering heart mirrors ours. We long to understand the way, though so often we find ourselves befuddled as we try to understand who Jesus was and what he wants from us.**

One: We hear the call to embrace the cross, to surrender our desires for the sake of a greater purpose and oh, how we want to pick it up and follow!

**Many: But it's heavy and we don't entirely understand the burden of its weight.**

One: Our questions are many, our insecurities sometimes show, our vulnerabilities can make us stronger, if we're willing to allow them to help us grow.

**Many: And so we follow Peter, who follows Jesus on this sacred expedition through time and space into the very depths of our souls, exploring our fears and our hopes, our challenges and our call.**

**All: Wandering hearts, wander on. Our Lenten journey continues.**

by Fred Pratt Green

When our confidence is shaken  
 In beliefs we thought secure;  
 When the spirit in its sickness  
 Seeks but cannot find a cure:  
 God is active in the tensions  
 Of a faith not yet mature  
     Solar systems, void of meaning,  
     Freeze the spirit into stone;  
     Always our researches lead us  
     To the ultimate Unknown:  
     Faith must die, or come full circle  
     To its source in God alone.

In the discipline of praying,  
 When it's hardest to believe;  
 In the drudgery of caring,  
 When it's not enough to grieve:  
 Faith maturing, learns acceptance  
 Of the insights we receive.  
     God is love; and he redeems us  
     In the Christ we crucify:  
     This is God's eternal answer  
     To the world's eternal why;  
     May we in this faith maturing  
     Be content to live and die.

**A Fresh Word****New Member Joining****Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano**

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

Congregation: We are committed to a daily struggle to let God's spirit remold our lives from within. Will you join us in this struggle?

**New Members: 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 Members: I will. We entrust to you both our needs and our 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 upon 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.**

Anthem

**Wana Barak**  
Kenyan Folk Song, arr. Shawn Kirchner

Chancel Choir

Taize

Congregation

**Prayers of the Church**

Rev. Dr. Terry LePage

(concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

Our Creator (Father, Mother, or other name as you are comfortable),  
which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory Call

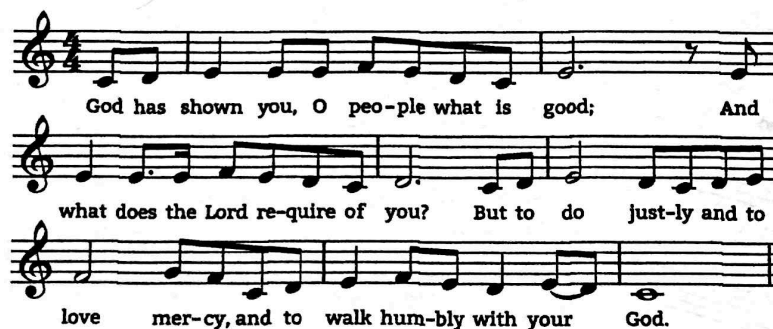
Christine Roy

Offertory Music

**Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

Jenna Hansen/Jaime Reza

**Song of Thanksgiving • "Micah 6:8"**



God has shown you, O peo-ple what is good; And  
what does the Lord re-quire of you? But to do just-ly and to  
love mer-cy, and to walk hum-bly with your God.

Prayer of Dedication

Christine Roy

Scripture

**Matthew 16:21-28**

Christine Roy

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

**Sermon**

**Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano**

**Benediction**

**Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano**

**Response**

***Alleluia***

**Congregation**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*  
*(Repeat)*

**Postlude**

**Yuyoung Jeong, piano**

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