

iucc Irvine United Congregational Church
*An Open & Affirming, Just Peace, Global Mission, Creation Justice,
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*
December 3, 2023 • 9:30am
FIRST SUNDAY ADVENT

Prelude ***O Come, Little Children with Rocking Carol*** Yuyoung Jeong, piano
(arr. Mark Hayes)

Gathering Song ***As We Gather*** **Congregation**
by Coomes & Fay

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

Gong

Introit ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** **Chancel Choir**
Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710

Call to Worship **Christine Roy**

One: Now is the time to wake from sleep,
Many: Now is the time to keep watch and stay alert.

One: Now is the time to look for the light,
Many: Now is the time to prepare for Christ.

One: For the tables are about to turn over,
Many: Those on the margins will be welcomed in.

One: The powerful will be brought down from their thrones,
Many: The lowly raised up and the hungry filled.

One: Now is the time to be ready,
Many: Now is the time to hope.

All: God will make all things new. Christmas is coming!

Hymn

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night
by John Bowring (New Century Hymnal #103)

Congregation

Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight:
see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight;
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way;
hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

Lighting of Advent Wreath

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.

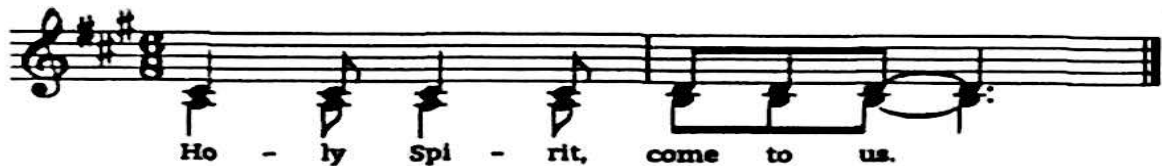
A Fresh Word

Anthem

Sing, Sing Noel
by Mark Burrows

Chancel Choir

Reflective Singing **"Holy Spirit Come to Us"**
J. Berthier



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.

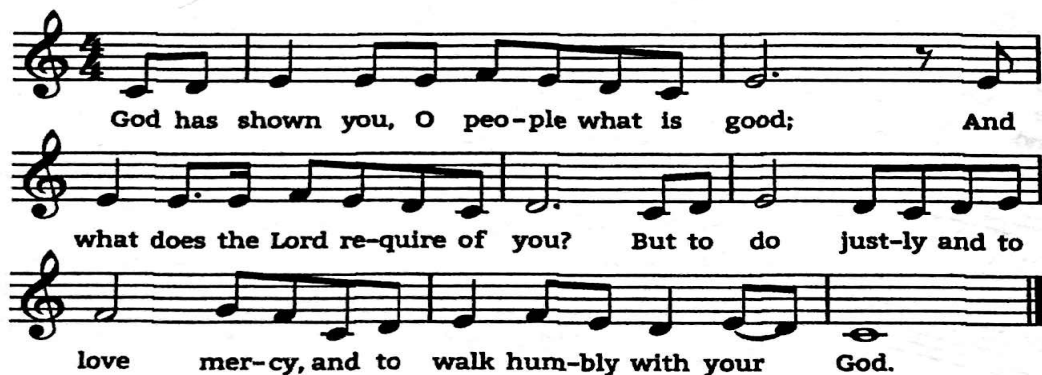
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

Offertory Call

Christine Roy

Song of Thanksgiving • "Micah 6:8"



Prayer of Dedication

Christine Roy

Scripture

Mark 13:27,32-37

Christine Roy

“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.”

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Communion Invitation

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Communion Music

One Bread, One Body

Dr. Chris Peterson

by John B. Foley

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more. (Refrain)

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. (Refrain)

Grain for the field, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all (Refrain)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Congregation

**For love shared and hope renewed,
for promises remembered and Christs among us,
for the feasts of this life and those to come,
we give you thanks, O God. Send us forth to reconcile and make new,
praising life in the midst of death, bearing hope on angels’ wings,
and giving thanks always and everywhere that life is precious beyond all telling.
Alleluia and Amen.**

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Response

Alleluia

Congregation

by Jerry Sinclair

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard On High

Yuyoung Jeong, piano

arr. Stan Zielinski

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