

Christmas Eve

A Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2023

Inglewood First UMC · 3:00 pm
304 E Spruce Ave Inglewood, CA 90301
www.inglewoodfirst.org

INTROIT

“Silent Night”
“Plenty Good Room”

Nhani & Alondra, *trumpet*
Inglewood First UMC Music

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Risa Wheat & Melisa Arnold

Leader: All through this season of Advent, we have encountered Hope, Peace and Joy and Love as we have waited to celebrate Christ’s coming into the world.

People: Today we will hear the story of God’s wonderful love.

Leader: Today, on Christmas Eve, we will be challenged to believe in all that God can do.

People: Open our hearts, Lord, that we may be ready for your love. Amen.

*OPENING PRAYER

Lord, remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Victor Cyrus-Franklin

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

The Porchia Family

Reader: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary sang, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name” (Luke 1:46-49).

People: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life, marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

*Reader: We light these candles as signs of our **hope**, our **peace**, our **joy**, and the **love** that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Hymnal #211

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-7

Friends from Holy Faith Episcopal Church

CAROL

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Hymnal #218

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Friends from Holy Faith Episcopal Church

CAROL

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Hymnal #234

THIRD LESSON*Luke 2:1-5*

Friends from Inglewood First UMC

CAROL*“Angels We Have Heard On High”**Hymnal #238, verses 1 & 2***FOURTH LESSON***Luke 2:6-7*

Friends from Inglewood First UMC

CAROL*“Do You Hear What I Hear?”***FIFTH LESSON***Luke 2:9-14*

Friends from Lennox-Tongan UMC

CAROL*“The First Noel”**Hymnal #245, verse 1 & 2***SIXTH LESSON***Luke 2:15-18*

Friends from Lennox-Tongan UMC

CAROL*“Silent Night”**Hymnal #239***SEVENTH LESSON***Matthew 2:1-11*

Friends from Inglewood First UMC

CAROL*“O Holy Night”*

& Hawthorne UMC

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Cyrus-Franklin Family

Reader: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

People: We live as people, prepared to follow the way of the Lord. We celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God’s kin-dom.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our peace, our joy, the love that transforms us, Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

People: “Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear, and signs of a salvation in the present appear. The word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near. One candle is lit, for Christ’s birth is here.” Amen!

SHARING THE LIGHT*“What Child is This?”*

Hymnal #219

“Away In A Manger”

Hymnal #217

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Hymnal #240

“Joy to the World”

Hymnal #246

REMARKS**BENEDICTION****CLOSING HYMN***“Take Me to the Alley”*

Inglewood First UMC