



INTROIT

“My Cherie Amour”

Inglewood First Music

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Kirstie Baker

*God of glory, your power darkens the skies and causes the moon to grow dim.
When we scatter to the four winds, gather us from the ends of the earth and restore us as your people.
Awaken us from slumber, that we may be found ready when the master of the house returns. Amen.*

OPENING HYMN

“Angels From The Realm of Glory”

Hymnal #220

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“We Are Not Alone”

Hymnal #883

*We are not alone, we live in God’s world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God. AMEN!*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

“We Are the Church”

Inglewood First Music

English Version:

*I am the church!
You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus
all around the world!
Yes, we’re the church together!*

Spanish Version:

*¡Yo soy la Iglesia!
¡Tú eres la Iglesia!
¡Somos la Iglesia juntos!
¡Todos los que siguen a Jesús
en todo el mundo!
¡Si, somos la Iglesia juntos!*

Tongan Version:

*Ko au koe temipale!
Ko koe koe temipale!
Tautolu koe temipale!
Tau muimui kia Sisu
Tautolu kotoa ‘i mamani
‘Io, ko tautolu koe temipale kakato!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Marlon Baker

Reader 1: *In days when God’s people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1).*

Reader 2: *We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.*

Congregation: *We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.*

Reader 1: *We light these candles as signs of God’s hope and peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.*

Light two candles of the Advent wreath.

ADVENT CANDLE SONG

*Light the Advent candle, two
think of humble shepherd, who
filled with wonder at the sight
of the child of Christmas night*

*Candle candle burning bright
Shining in the cold winter night
Candle candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light*

SONG OF PREPARATION

"Kumbaya My Lord"

SCRIPTURE READING

*Mark 1:4-8
Common English Bible*

4 John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. 5 Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. 6 John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

MESSAGE

"The Best Is Yet to Come"

Rev. Victor Cyrus-Franklin

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

INVITATIONAL SONG

"I Have A God"

Inglewood First Music

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kirstie Baker

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Hallelujah"

Inglewood First Music



TODAY IN WORSHIP: Bravo Maintenance; Rev. Victor Cyrus-Franklin, *Lead Pastor*; Risa Wheat, *Worship Chairperson*; Sam Reid, *Pianist*; Tre' Cyrus-Franklin, *Percussion*; Tony Greene, *Sound Tech*; Tuutanga Tuihalamaka, *Video Tech*; Kirstie Baker, *Liturgist*

4 WAYS TO GIVE:

- (1) **Mail:** Send to *Inglewood First UMC, 304 E Spruce Ave, Inglewood, CA 90301*
 - (2) **Online:** www.inglewoodfirst.org/give or
 - (3) **Text-to-Give:** Text an amount to **84321!**
 - (4) **Download the Church App** at www.inglewoodfirst.org/app
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COMING UP @ INGLEWOOD FIRST UMC / inglewoodfirst.org/calendar

- **Zoom Bible Study** | Tuesdays @ 12 pm & 7 pm | Sign up at inglewoodfirst.org/biblestudy
 - **Virginia Beckett Food Pantry Distribution** | Thursday, December 21st @ 9:45 am
 - **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** | Sunday, December 24th @ 3:00 pm
 - **Selah Sunday** | December 31st (No In-Person Worship Service)
 - **All Church Planning & Visioning Retreat** | Saturday, January 13, 2024 @ 9 am - 2 pm
 - **We're on our Journey to Build Affordable Housing!** Updates @ inglewoodfirst.org/housing.
 - **The Listening. (music sharing group)** | www.inglewoodfirst.org/thelistening
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CONGREGATIONAL CARE | *Submit prayer requests at inglewoodfirst.org/prayer.*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS | Rev. Victor Cyrus-Franklin 12/5, Tre Cyrus-Franklin 12/5, Manu Tu'uholoaki-Murrin 12/7, Frank Baker 12/8, Marjorie Porchia 12/14, Gina Williams 12/15, Melisa Arnold 12/20, Halaevalu Tu'uholoaki 12/20, Patricia Thomas 12/23, Delmas Arnold 12/25, Rokyia Ferguson 12/26, Charlene Bright 12/28

PRAYER LIST | For Ceasefire in Israel & Palestine • Soto-Mack Family • Houseless Neighbors • Elethea Cunningham & Family • Wendy Reynolds & Family • John Cohill & Family • Jean Pryor • Toni Ravens • Siosuia Tupou & Family • Elizabeth Payne • Elva Herrera • Samuel Howell & Family • Affordable Housing Project • Della Greene & Anthony Greene • Stephannie Starr