



INTROIT

“Speak to My Heart”

Inglewood First Music

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Sara Diaz-Montejano
Liturgist

God of hope and peace, as we worship you this day, may we catch a glimpse of your peace; may we be open to receive your grace; may we welcome one another, as you have welcomed us; may we prepare hearts and our lives, for Christ to be born in us once again. And when our worship is done, may we be renewed in body and spirit, prepared to bring your righteousness and justice to the world. In Christ’s name, we pray, Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Hymnal #196

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES : HOPE + PEACE

Fister-Diaz Family

Reader: The prophet Isaiah calls to us to imagine the future when God’s reign is realized. When God “shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4).

All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God’s reign has come and is coming among us.

Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

Reader: We light these candles of hope and peace as signs of God’s promise to transform our hope into reality and our commitment to bring Light to the world until that day when all creation lives together in peace.

[Light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath.]

ADVENT CANDLE SONG

Inglewood First Music

First:

Chorus:

Second:

*Light the advent candle one
Now the waiting has begun
We have started on our way
Time to think of Christmas Day*

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

*Light the advent candle two
Think of God’s true love for you
Angel’s singing peace on earth
At the blessed Savior’s birth*

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-11

1 A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots. A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots. 2 The LORD’s spirit will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of planning and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD. 3 He will delight in fearing the LORD. He won’t judge by appearances, nor decide by hearsay. 4 He will judge the needy with righteousness, and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land. He will strike the violent

with the rod of his mouth; by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be the belt around his hips, and faithfulness the belt around his waist.

6 The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and a lion will eat straw like an ox. 8 A nursing child will play over the snake's hole; toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.

9 They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain. The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the LORD, just as the water covers the sea. 10 On that day, the root of Jesse will stand as a signal to the peoples. The nations will seek him out, and his dwelling will be glorious. 11 On that day, the Lord will extend his hand a second time to reclaim the survivors of God's people who are left from Assyria and from Egypt, from Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

HOMILY

"God's Presence Brings Peace"

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Oliver

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Today, we place around the sanctuary **Evergreens** that symbolize the unchanging nature of our God. **Bright red poinsettias**, first cultivated by the ancient Aztecs in Mexico, are a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus.

We decorate the **Chrismon tree**. Chrismons are symbols of Christ's ministry. The **lights** on the tree represent each person in the body of Christ here in our church and around the world. The **angels** are God's messengers. The **star** heralds the birth of Christ. The **round bulbs** represent the earth that our God created.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Hymnal #334

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sara Diaz-Montejano

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Oliver

POSTLUDE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Inglewood First Music

Announcements 
inglewood first united methodist church

COMING UP @ INGLEWOOD FIRST UMC / inglewoodfirst.org/calendar

- **Zoom Bible Study** | Tuesdays @ 7 pm & Thursdays @ 1 pm
- **We're on our journey to Build Affordable Housing!** Groundbreaking set for February 7, 2026!

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, Rokiya Ferguson 12/26, Charlene Bright 12/28 | **PRAYER LIST** | J'Slolo Siosuia Tava Tu'uholoaki • Cisco Rose • Ellis Melendez • Anthony Greene & Family • Family of Lilye Harbison • Quinn Jones & Jonathan Jones • Michelle Taylor Greene • Annie Webb & Monica Webb • Jean H. Pryor • Mary Anne Swayne & son Paul • Elva Herrera & son Daniel • Jennifer Blannon • Patricia Thomas • Jimmie Woods-Gray • Mary Collins • John Cohill • Rokiya Ferguson • Elizabeth Payne • Stephannie Starr • Affordable Housing Project