

INTROIT

“O Give Thanks”

Inglewood First Jazz

WELCOME

Elethea Cunningham
Liturgist

OPENING PRAYER

In this season of love, hope and family, grant us joy and peace this day. You offered signs to Joseph and Mary long ago- signs that their son would be the Messiah, May your light shine on us here, that we might understand the signs in our lives. Holy God, show us your peace as we make ready for your light in the world!

OPENING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Hymnal #234

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE : LOVE

Cyrus-Franklin Family

Today, we come face to face with the heart of the Advent story: God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite their fear.

With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.

*We light this candle of **love** as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.*

ADVENT CANDLE SONG

Inglewood First Music

Fourth Verse:

*Light the Advent candle, four
Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born,
gift of love that Christmas morn.*

Chorus:

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“We Are Not Alone”

Elethea Cunningham

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 & serve others, to seek justice & resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified & risen, our judge & 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:

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

INTRODUCTION TO GUEST PREACHER

SONG OF PREPARATION

"A Love Supreme"

Inglewood First Jazz

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25
Common English Bible

8 *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19* *Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20* *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21* *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

22 *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23* *"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). 24* *When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25* *But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

MESSAGE

"Love In the Middle"

Rev. Cedric Nelms

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Neema Cyrus-Franklin

INVITATIONAL SONG

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Inglewood First Jazz

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elethea Cunningham

BENEDICTION

Rev. Nelms

POSTLUDE

"Oh Give Thanks"

Inglewood First Jazz



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

- **Zoom Bible Study | Will resume in January 2026** - Tuesdays @ 7 pm & Thursdays @ 1 pm
- **Vision Board on Soul Care Sunday** | Sunday, Dec. 28 @ 9:45 am. **Bring old magazines!**
- We're on our journey to Build **Affordable Housing!** Updates @ inglewoodfirst.org/housing

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 II 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