



**INTROIT**

Inglewood First Music

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Michelle Taylor Green  
*Liturgist*

**OPENING PRAYER**

*Oh Immanuel, God with us, truly in this Advent season we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway cloud, but you chose to be with us in the blur and mystery of our lives.*

*In the midst of lists and rush, you are with us as a song that echoes in our minds, as the light of a candle, as a card from a friend. They are signs of your presence.*

*We turn to you this season and pray that you would birth joy and healing, blessing and hope in us.*

*Let something wonderful begin in us — something surprising and holy.*

*May your hand be upon us. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us.*

*Let our longing for you be met on a coming holy night. Immanuel with us once again. Amen.*

**OPENING HYMN**

*“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

Hymnal #196

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Luke 21:25-31*

Angela Birdsong

*New Revised Standard Version*

*Liturgist*

*25 “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” 29 Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.*

**MESSAGE**

***“Living in Preparedness”***

Pastor Monalisa Siofele Lolohea

**HANGING OF THE GREENS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE**

Shirley Taylor & Family

**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 wigs 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 are surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the reign 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.

*\*Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.*

## ADVENT CANDLE SONG

Inglewood First Music

*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 Christmas light*

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Monalisa Siofele Lolohea

## COMMUNION SONG

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## BENEDICTION

Pastor Lolohea

## POSTLUDE

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**TODAY IN WORSHIP:** Risa Wheat, *Worship Chairperson*; Shirley Taylor, Michelle Taylor Green, and Angela Birdsong, *Liturgists*; Sam Reid, *Director of Music*; Tre' Cyrus-Franklin, *Percussions*; Max Weiner, *Bass*; Tony Greene, *Sound Tech*; Pastor Monalisa Siofele-Lolohea, *Site Pastor*; Bravo Maintenance

## 4 WAYS TO GIVE:

- (1) **Mail:** Send to *Inglewood First UMC*,  
304 E Spruce Ave, Inglewood, CA 90301  
(2) **Online:** [www.inglewoodfirst.org/give](http://www.inglewoodfirst.org/give)

- (3) **Text-to-Give:** Text an amount to **84321!**  
(4) **Download the Church App** at  
[www.inglewoodfirst.org/app](http://www.inglewoodfirst.org/app)

## ALTAR FLOWERS

*In memory of loved ones, given by Jean Pryor and family*

## COMING UP @ INGLEWOOD FIRST UMC / [inglewoodfirst.org/calendar](http://inglewoodfirst.org/calendar)

- **Worship Team Planning Meeting** | Tuesdays @ 10:00 am
- **Zoom Bible Study** | Tuesdays @ 12 pm & 7 pm | Sign up at [inglewoodfirst.org/biblestudy](http://inglewoodfirst.org/biblestudy)
- **Virginia Beckett Food Pantry** | Thursday, December 19, 2024 @ 9:45 am - 12:00 pm
- **Holiday Housing & Mental Wellness Pilot Program** | Thursday, December 19 @ 11 am - 2 pm
- **Selah Sunday** | Sunday, December 29, 2024
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 3rd & 4th Sundays after worship service
- We're on our journey to Build Affordable Housing! Updates @ [inglewoodfirst.org/housing](http://inglewoodfirst.org/housing)

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE | *Submit prayer requests at [inglewoodfirst.org/prayer](http://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** | Jimmie Woods-Gray • Quinn Jones • Pastor Rey Guevara's family • Mary Collins & Family • John Cohill & Family • Rokyia Ferguson • Toni Ravens & Candice Callins • Ceasefire in Gaza • Soto-Mack Family • Houseless Neighbors • Wendy Reynolds & Family • Elizabeth Payne • Elva Herrera • Affordable Housing Project • Della Greene & Anthony Greene • Blanche Smith • Stephannie Starr