

Christmas Eve

A Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

December 22, 2024

Inglewood First UMC · 9 AM
304 E Spruce Ave Inglewood, CA 90301
www.inglewoodfirst.org

PRELUDE

“My Favorite Things” - John Coltrane

Inglewood First UMC Trio

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kirstie Baker, *Liturgist*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Marlon Baker, *Liturgist*

Leader: Christ's love has called us here.

People: Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

Leader: Christ's love is transforming the world.

People: In joy, we'll give thanks and sing.

Leader: Christ's love calls us to justice and peace.

People: In faith, we'll answer the call.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of ancient days and future visions, we come into your presence to celebrate the joy of your Holy Spirit and the blessing of your Son, Christ Jesus.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit, as you filled Elizabeth long ago.

Sing through our songs of joy, as you sang through Mary.

Speak through our words and our thoughts, that we may grow closer to the justice and the peace of Christ Jesus, who calls us here today.

In Christ's holy and blessed name, we pray. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Monalisa Siofele-Lolohea

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: **LOVE**

The Baker & Reynolds Families

Reader: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O, Inglewood First UMC, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

People: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader: We light this candle of **LOVE**, together with the candles of **HOPE**, sacred **PEACE**, and everlasting **JOY**, as signs of our commitment to live as people of God's promise; a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from **God's love for all creation.**

ADVENT CANDLE SONG

Inglewood First Music

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-7

Risa Wheat, *Worship Chair*

CAROL	<i>"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"</i>	<i>Hymnal #218, verses 1 & 4</i>
SECOND LESSON	<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	Melisa Arnold, <i>Council Chair</i>
CAROL	<i>O Come All Ye Faithful"</i>	<i>Hymnal #234, verses 1,5 & 6</i>
THIRD LESSON	<i>Luke 2:1-7</i>	Tyler Fister, <i>Trustees Chair</i>
CAROL	<i>"Angels We Have Heard On High"</i>	<i>Hymnal #238, verses 1 & 2</i>
FOURTH LESSON	<i>Luke 2:8-14</i>	Manu Tu'uholoaki-Murrin
CAROL	<i>"Angels We Have Heard On High"</i>	<i>Hymnal #238, verses 3 & 4</i>
FIFTH LESSON	<i>Luke 2:15-18</i>	Charlene Bright
CAROL	<i>"The First Noel"</i>	<i>Hymnal #245, verse 1-3</i>
SIXTH LESSON	<i>Matthew 2:1-7</i>	Elethea Cunninghama
CAROL	<i>"Away in a Manger"</i>	<i>Hymnal #217</i>
SEVENTH LESSON	<i>Matthew 2:8-11</i>	Melody Tu'uholoaki
CAROL	<i>"We Three Kings"</i>	<i>Hymnal #254</i>
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE		The Lolohea Family
<p>Reader: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "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 9:6).</p> <p>People: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).</p> <p>Reader: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.</p>		
SHARING THE LIGHT	<i>"What Child is This?"</i> <i>"Silent Night"</i>	<i>Hymnal #219</i> <i>Hymnal #239</i>
BENEDICTION		Pastor Monalisa Siofele Lolohea
CLOSING HYMN	<i>"Joy to the World"</i>	Inglewood First UMC
POSTLUDE	<i>"Now's the Time" by Charlie Parker</i>	Inglewood First Trio