



INTROIT

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Inglewood First Music

GREETING AND WELCOME

Melisa Arnold
Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

LA Fires Litany and Prayer - Written by California-Pacific Conference

L: God, our refuge and our strength, our ever-present help in the time of trouble, we pray this day for all who are experiencing loss from the Los Angeles fires.

P: God, you have promised never to leave us or forsake us. We need you now.

L: Today, we mourn with sisters, brothers, and all siblings who have lost:

P: Homes

L: Businesses

P: Possessions

L: Loved Ones

P: Hope

L: We pray for those whose homes have been destroyed.

P: Shelter them.

L: For those whose possessions have been lost.

P: Provide for them.

L: For those whose livelihoods have been disrupted.

P: Sustain them.

L: For those whose next steps are uncertain.

P: Shepherd them.

L: For those who grieve

P: Comfort them.

L: Today, we also pray for the first responders:

P: Give them strength and endurance for the daunting task.

L: We pray for government officials:

P: Give them wisdom, care and resources that people need.

L: We pray for the people as they work to rebuild their lives:

P: Give them hope, clarity and perseverance.

L: We pray for the Church:

P: May our hearts break open with compassion, generosity and swift action

L: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on us today

P: To bind up the brokenhearted, to comfort all who mourn

L: To provide for those who grieve in the greater Los Angeles area

P: To bestow on them a reminder of God's favor instead of ashes

L: The oil of joy instead of mourning

P: And a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair

L: This is the day that will come

P: And we will journey there together

L: And until that day, through the wind and the flames, and through our solidarity and service, may we be reminded of God's still small voice:

P: That we are Beloved. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Hymnal #64

OPENING PRAYER

Melisa Arnold

God of strength, God of love, surround us with your love.

Gather us in as your beloved children.

Open our ears to hear your voice.

Open our hearts to the power of your transforming love.

*May your waters of grace pour over us, renewing us for your work in the world.
Bless us in this holy time. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 3:15-17; 21-22
New Revised Standard Version UE*

15 As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with [b] the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

21 Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SONG OF PREPARATION

"This Little Light of Mine"

Hymnal #585

MESSAGE

"You Are My Beloved"

Pastor Monalisa Lolohea

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

INVITATIONAL SONG

"Thank You Lord"

Inglewood First Music

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE

BENEDICTION

Pastor Monalisa Lolohea

POSTLUDE

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Inglewood First Music

Announcements 
inglewood first united methodist church

4 WAYS TO GIVE:

(1) **Mail:** Send to *Inglewood First UMC,*
304 E Spruce Ave, Inglewood, CA 90301

(2) **Online:** www.inglewoodfirst.org/give

(3) **Text-to-Give:** Text an amount to **84321!**

(4) **Download the Church App** at
www.inglewoodfirst.org/app

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

- **Worship Team Planning Meeting** | Tuesdays @ 10:00 am
- **Zoom Bible Study** | Tuesdays @ 12 pm & 7 pm | will resume January 14th
- **Church Council Meeting (ONLINE)** | Wednesday, January 15th @ 7 PM via Zoom
- **Virginia Beckett Food Pantry** | Thursday, January 16, 2025 @ 9:45 am - 12:00 pm
- **Affordable Housing Campaign Leadership Retreat** | Sunday, January 20, 2025 @ 9:00am - 4:00pm
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 3rd & 4th Sundays after worship service
- We're on our journey to Build Affordable Housing! Updates @ inglewoodfirst.org/housing