

**SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2560 HUNTINGTON DRIVE
SAN MARINO, CA 91108**

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**“Never place a period where God has placed a COMMA,
God is STILL SPEAKING!”**



January 10, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

The Baptism of Christ

For Reflection

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.”
(Isaiah 43: 1b)

Please stop by the Sound Booth if you wish to use a sound receiver today.

You are invited to watch the screen up front to increase your participation in today’s service of worship.

** The asterisk indicates the times when you are invited to stand if the Spirit so moves you.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Music provided by Albert Mendoza & Murray Middleman

WELCOME

Donald Shenk, Pastoral Assistant

***SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come” and “Let Justice Roll Like a River”

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holly Burns

Liturgist: Loving, Divine Parent, you who are God alone, your children are calling you.

People: Hear our prayers, O God.

Liturgist: You have nursed us and held us close. You have taught us and guided us; your ways are revealed to us so we can live according to your Word.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Liturgist: Thank you for loving us. We are capable of loving each other just as you love us.

People: Make us more loving toward one another.

Liturgist: We call your name and sing praises to you. You are our God and we are your people.

People: Make us a more peaceful people.

Liturgist: You have blessed us abundantly so we can be a blessing to others.

People: Help us to give more cheerfully.

**ALL: We are listening to your still-speaking voice. Hallelujah! Shalom. Salaam. Right on!
Amen.**

***A SONG FOR THE HEART**

“Spirit of the Living God”

The Congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Rev. Gene Boutilier

OUR COMMON PRAYER

“O God, who art in heaven...”

MUSIC TO BLESS THE CHILDREN

“Children, Welcome”

*Children and Youth are welcome to join our Sunday School and Children Worship & Wonder program!
After the children’s time, children aged 3 through those in 5th grade are invited to process downstairs to the
Wonder Room and those in 6th through 12th grade to the Green Room. Childcare for children under age 4 is
available in our nursery today with trained and certified childcare provider, Mrs. Barbara Sanchez.
When these programs finish, children and youth will be brought up to social time.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Holly Burns

SONG OF PREPARATION “Love is the Boat for the Journey”

The United Voices

By Ian Callanan

REFLECTIONS “Love & Promises -- 'Covenant' in our times”

Rev. Gene Boutilier
Guest Preacher

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (#292)

Congregation

A TIME TO GIVE

Holly Burns

A TIME TO ACT

Donald Shenk

A TIME TO DEDICATE OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

Holly Burns

Thank you, O God, for this offering. We bring only a portion of your gifts from your bounty. You are so kind and good. You supplied our needs. This is your money used to support the ministries of this congregation and the United Church of Christ. We give you but your own as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts in your name. Amen.

A TIME FOR PRAYER “God Fill Me Now”

Prayer time led by Rev. Gene

SENDING HYMN “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” (#495)

Congregation

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Gene Boutilier

***CHANGING OF THE LIGHT**

Holly Burns

***GOING FORTH**

Instrumentalists

Everyone is welcome to the SOCIAL TIME next door in Crist Hall after the service.
THANKS to Kris and Jacqui Cunz for providing our treats today!

We express a warm welcome to all who are here today!

This Church is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, a denomination dedicated to spiritual growth, faith with action and social transformation. If you’re visiting today, please stop by our Visitor’s Center in the Entryway to sign our Guest Book, fill out a visitor card (with nametag so we can greet you by name) and receive information about everything happening here.

ELIZABETH ROSE CAMERON FOOD FIRST EVERY SUNDAY is a giving opportunity available to support families and individuals who are hungry and need help. Remember to bring canned, non-perishable foods to church every Sunday along with your extra change and place them in the basket and glass teddy bear in the Narthex.

Please note: In an effort to control the spread of any germs we invite you to utilize the hand sanitizer provided for you at the Nametag table. Thanks to our members who have provided this opportunity.



Word from God to inspire our hearts and excite our souls. We welcome his encouragement and challenge to commit our lives to Christ’s mission. As a long-time member of San Marino Congregational United Church of Christ, it is especially good to share Gene’s vision for a more just society and more peaceful world. We are grateful for his presence. Together, let us pray for Divine guidance to lead Gene’s message, and for our hearts,

minds, and ears to be opened to receive this man of God. Thank you, Gene, for coming and boldly sharing your gifts of music and Word with our congregation.

My daily mantra is, “No matter what happens today, I am going to practice gratitude and joy because God is the Source of my life.” Those 21 words have changed the way I live and they have directly affected my attitude.

Nearly 12 years ago, that sentence entered my mind while I was waiting in my car for a street light to change from red to green. There was sufficient time for me to experience a ‘meditative moment’ in rush hour traffic. That prayerful phrase formed quietly and has become a ritual for daily living. Since then I have shared it with others. Some people have copied it and use it as their prayer. It has made a very positive difference in my life.

There is almost nothing we can control. Even when we feel highly confident and competent about events in which we participate, the truth remains that most things are beyond our control. The very air we breathe to survive cannot be adjusted by us. Of course, we can strive to have policies enacted to force industry leaders to actively engage in practices that will improve the quality of air; but, ultimately, air is an element that is governed by natural laws.

The behavior of other people is beyond our control. While we might wish for consistently good conduct to be exercised by others around us, the fact is people determine their own actions regardless of our desires. Occasionally, we may be fortunate to encounter people who have a highly evolved sense of humanity and strive to live compatibly with the rest of us. But, we really can’t control what other people do.

Even our health is beyond our control. We can exercise, eat right, and do all the prescribed and recommended activities to stay healthy, but an accident or unexpected event can alter our life forever. Stuff happens!

Our children can bring us joy or great disappointment. Storms do occur. The Earth can quake. Bad things happen to good people and, conversely, good things happen to bad people. Life is a series of intended and unintended situations and circumstances. Most of them are beyond our control.

Once my daily mantra became a part of my life, an expression of gratitude and joy immediately occupied my mind. I felt a shift in my attitude. Of course, disappointments continue to occur. Storms still pass through my life. Stuff still happens around me. The most important gift was the transformation within me.

The recognition and affirmation of God’s amazing grace and love help me to weather the turbulence. When times get tough, those 21 words become a balm that heals and soothes my soul. They do not mask reality or create an illusion about what is going on. Instead, there is greater clarity about what is taking place and an awareness that the God of Creation is in charge of everything, including my life.

The other outcome from reciting my daily mantra is a reminder that most things happen in a precise moment and dissipate with time. When I look back or remember certain things that seemed so important at the time they happened, I realize they are reduced to a blur or vague memory. It makes forgiveness possible and hope is a viable option.

My life is surrendered to God who loves every person with an immeasurable capacity. “No matter what happens today, I am going to practice gratitude and joy because God is the Source of my life.”

-Pastor Art Cribbs

THANKS to everyone who helped “De-Green” our sanctuary and grounds last Sunday!!

What’s Happening...

- **TODAY** The Theatre Advisory Board will meet at the Oldknow home after the social time today.
- **TUES.** 7pm – **SOUL FOOD** will meet in the Green Room downstairs.
- **THURS.** 7pm – **The United Voices** will rehearse in the sanctuary.

NEXT SUNDAY:

A **Congregational Conversation** will take place after the social time in Crist Hall. This will be the last conversation before our Annual Meeting at the end of the month. Please plan on attending to discuss

COMING UP:

Weds., Jan. 20 - PASTORAL RELATIONS TEAM meets at 6:45pm in Pastor's Office.

Friday, Jan. 22- SPIRE newsletter deadline.

Sat., Jan. 23 - 7pm THE SPIRIT & THE SCREEN presents the movie, "UP" in our Theatre.

Sat. Jan. 30 - SACRED CONVERSATIONS begun at the last Central Association gathering will continue at 10am (until 1pm) here on our campus. Everyone is invited whether or not you attended the initial gathering.

Sun., Jan. 31- OUR ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK will take place after our service of worship. Many very important issues need to be decided for 2010. Your input and attendance is requested.

4pm – LEE DOMANN folk concert. Nashville recording artist, Lee Domann, will present a concert of his amazing music. A Love Offering will be received in lieu of selling tickets.

