

**SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2560 HUNTINGTON DRIVE
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**“Never place a period where God has placed a COMMA,
God is STILL SPEAKING!”**



January 17, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

For Reflection

“Justice too long delayed is justice denied.”

(Martin Luther King, Jr.)

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

Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs, Pastor

***SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT**

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!” and “Listen, God is Calling”

***OPENING PRAYER**

Kris Cunz

Liturgist: O God, your people are in your house. Come and speak for we are listening.

People: We long to hear your Still-Speaking Voice.

Liturgist: You are creating all the world and everything that lives. Walk with us and show us your path.

People: Here we are, O God, show us the Way.

Liturgist: You have called us to be your people. Give us the heart of peacemakers and the wisdom of mercy.

People: Grant us courage in the struggle for justice and peace.

Liturgist: We have not always been kind. We have not always protected your Creation. Our mistakes have threatened many of our brothers and sisters...your children.

People: Teach us, O God, how to do better; how to live according to your Word.

Liturgist: Come, Caring One, and breathe your Spirit upon us and renew us in your Image.

People: Loving God, we confess our sins. We are sorry for not living fully as you desire.

Liturgist: You require three things of us: to do justice; to love mercy; and, to walk humbly before you.

ALL: We can do that. We can love one another and all your people. We can protect your Creation. We can treat each other fairly and do justice. We can show mercy toward those who harm us. We bow humbly before you, O God. We are listening to your Still-Speaking Voice. Hallelujah. Shalom. Salaam. Right On! Amen.

***A SONG FOR THE HEART**

“Let Justice Roll Like a River”

The Congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

“Things Can Change!”

Pastor Art

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	Amos 5:18-24	Kris Cunz
SONG OF PREPARATION	<i>"Take Up Your Cross"</i>	The United Voices
	<i>Words and Music by David Haas (based on Matthew 16:24-28)</i>	
REFLECTIONS	<i>"Martin and Justice"</i>	Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs
HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>"We Shall Overcome" (#570)</i>	Congregation
A TIME TO GIVE		Kris Cunz
	<i>We are also receiving a special offering for emergency relief in Haiti. These funds will be sent to the special fund the UCC has set up, "One Great Hour of Sharing – Haiti Earthquake Relief." Please use the envelope included in your bulletin if you wish to make a donation to this special fund.</i>	
A TIME TO ACT		Donald Shenk
A TIME TO DEDICATE OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS		Kris Cunz
	Thank you, O God, for this offering we have brought to your altar. Thank you for your many blessings. Thank you for this opportunity to give as freely as we have received. Use this money for the building of your mission through the ministries of this church and the United Church of Christ. We are grateful for all you do. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you, O God. Amen.	
A TIME FOR PRAYER	<i>"God Fill Me Now"</i>	Prayer time led by Pastor Cribbs
SENDING HYMN	<i>"Lead Us From Death to Life" (#581), vs. 1 & 3</i>	Congregation
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Cribbs
*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT		Kris Cunz
*GOING FORTH		Instrumentalists

Everyone is welcome to the SOCIAL TIME next door in Crist Hall after the service.
THANKS to Cathy Burkdoll 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.



CRIBBS NOTES

Sometimes things get worse before they get better. We may look up and see only clouds hovering above our heads. Violent storms bring beating rains and torrential floods. Disasters strike without

warning and everything changes in a flash. There are times when we feel absolutely helpless. We don't know what to do or where to turn. Life is no longer as we have known it.

For many of us, such scenarios are beyond comprehension. We have never experienced profound transformation and devastating loss. We have no reference point or personal knowledge that connects us to the vast unknown existence of despair and depravation. Yet, more than half the people who live on our planet are deeply and perpetually aware of what it means to eke out a life on the margins. They pray for change. They desperately desire radical shifts that will release them from the jarring grips of injustice and the nightmare of prolonged agony.

Who truly cares about families, children, and persons who survive in the underbelly of an immoral society? They are rendered invisible, unmentionable non-beings whose daily regimen is reduced to scraping for meager morsels and slow drips of unsafe water. Their faces are hidden. Their names go unrecorded. They creep along the corridors of out-of-the-way crevices in the shadows of towering structures. They are not noticed. They wonder will things change for them.

In the rush of daily commerce, many of us are too busy to see, hear, feel, or know the depths of dangerous dens dangling repetitious dramas of inhumane conditions just steps in front of us.

Our iPods mute the din of silent screams shouting through the airwaves of disconnected social networks as we search for purpose in a meaningless stream of constant nonsense. The blare of disjointed rhythmic pulsation deadens our sensitivity to the needs of others and deafens our ability to listen to the cries of survivors. Our souls have been sold to peddlers of temporal, privatized pleasure for fleeting sensations of extreme ecstasy without caring about human reality.

Who really cares?

Does it matter that our very existence depends on the unfamiliar sweat oozing out of the bodies of laborers who dig in the dirt to deliver dinner to our tables? Have we considered the toil exerted by displaced relatives who traveled great distances to provide a living for loved ones left behind in sun-scorched fields now barren; where unemployment is routine and a way of life is dying in the loneliness of forgotten locations?

In the midst of sophisticated systems and advanced technological achievements, our humanity still lags behind the potential of true greatness and sensitive caring. We have taken a turn away from building a "more perfect union." We have broken the bonds of being together in the beautiful mosaic of God's imagination in which every person lives fully, simply, and cheerfully.

A change is coming that will require us to reassess our priorities and decide which course we will take to correct our mistakes. We cannot escape the urgent need to open our hearts, minds, eyes, ears, and souls to receive a passionate plea for compassion to prevail in these days. God made us intentionally to address the issues that divide us and to heal the seared scars of a hurting world. It is time to act appropriately and immediately to make the change that is called for right now.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

What's Happening...

- **TODAY Congregational Conversation on Church Leadership, Governance, and Structure** will continue today immediately following worship. We have an immediate need to fill several positions, including leadership team members, team coordinator, and treasurer. If you have an interest in helping to guide our congregation forward, please attend the Congregational Conversation this Sunday. Also, a proposal to suspend the Church Bylaws in 2010 has been presented. This matter will be discussed.
- **TUES. 7pm – SOUL FOOD** will meet in the Green Room downstairs.

Please Note: Our Pastoral Assistant, Donald, will be attending a Music Conference in San Francisco this week and will not return to the office until Wednesday, Jan. 27th.

COMING UP:

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.