

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

(626) 292-2080

www.sanmarinoucc.org

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



February 14, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday

Last Sunday after Epiphany

For Reflection

“When there are prophets among you, I the Lord make myself known
To them in visions; I speak to them in dreams.”

(Numbers 12:6)

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**

“God Came Down” and “You Are Holy”

***OPENING PRAYER**

David Crist

Liturgist: Good morning, Loving Creator, Holy is your name. Everlasting is your mercy.

People: We are here to give you praise.

Liturgist: Thank you, O God, for your loving presence. Thank you for your still-speaking Voice.

People: We are here to listen to your Word.

Liturgist: You have come as one of us in Jesus of Nazareth. Your love sustains us.

People: We are here to live according to your will.

Liturgist: You receive us as your people, but we have not always pleased you.

People: We are here to ask your forgiveness.

Liturgist: Come now, Great Spirit, and let justice and righteousness flow like a mighty stream.

People: We are here as a peaceful people. We are here, O God, to serve you by giving ourselves freely to our brothers and sisters who need us. Come, O God, come. Hallelujah! Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

***A SONG FOR THE HEART**

“Let Justice Roll Like a River”

Congregation

The Congregation may be seated.

COMMISSIONING OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN “Moses and a Woman Named Moses”

Pastor Cribbs

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.



There is a lot of unfinished business that still requires our attention and diligence as we go forward together in the 21st Century.

In 1903, sociologist, journalist, and civil rights activist W.E.B. DuBois, the first African American to earn a PhD from Harvard University, wrote in his book, The Souls Of Black Folk, “The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.” His prediction remains a subject of study and controversy even as the events of the past one hundred years proved the scholar accurate. Color and race remain part of the unfinished business that plagues our nation.

Dr. DuBois did not limit his forecast to the United States. He recognized the clutches of color prejudice extended around the world to Asia, Africa, Europe, the Pacific Island nations, and across America.

In 1968, New York Senator Bobby Kennedy, a presidential candidate, announced that a Black man would be elected President of the United States in 40 years. In 2008, 40 years later, President Barack Obama became the first African American Commander-in-Chief, and he entered the White House as a resident and not a servant.

Did the election of President Obama solve “the problem of the color line” 105 years after Dr. DuBois’ prophetic examination? Is that business finished? Every significant indicator from financial attainment to health care declares a resounding “No!” There remains plenty of unfinished business when it comes to race in America.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in 2007, the average African American family income was \$33,916 compared to \$54,920 for White families. African American men are nearly 2.5 times as likely to die from prostate cancer as White men.

Dr. DuBois described “the relation of the darker to the lighter races” as the basis of the problem.

The recent earthquake in Haiti is a gross and undeniable reminder of the extent to which the unfinished business remains with us. Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, and is residence to the poorest, “darker” population in this hemisphere. Haitians personify “the relation of the darker to the lighter races” as they vainly scrape to survive.

But, we need not scan the globe for evidence of Dr. DuBois’ critique. Islands of neglect and pockets of under-served communities abound within short driving distances of our community. Almost everywhere African American, Latino, and Native Americans live in concentration, the absence of greater opportunities is punctuated by an overabundance of lost hope, broken dreams, and denied justice.

The scarcity of trees, for example, combined with the shortage of properly prepared physicians and educators in high-occupancy People of Color districts signal more evidence that a lot of work has yet to be done if we are to create a society that honors and promotes the ideals of equality, fairness, and solutions to the lingering problems of the twentieth century.

We cannot dismiss the advancements that produced the 2008 victory of President Obama. At the same time, we can ill-afford to become blinded by the glare of one long over-due political success story and ignore the plight of tens of millions of Americans who continue to struggle under the burden of racism and color consciousness that pits darker and lighter persons against each other.

Perhaps, there is more than a bit of irony in the bi-racial, black and white composition of our new president at the early dawn of the twenty-first century. President Obama may be the hybrid personality required to forge an answer to Dr. DuBois’s troubling problem of the color line.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

DELEGATES NEEDED! The 2010 Annual Gathering Planning Committee would like to know who will be attending the 2010 Annual Gathering (“From One Foundation to New Creations”) in Santa Ana on Friday & Saturday, June 11-12. Please let Donald Shenk know by Saturday, February 20, if you would like to be a delegate to our Annual Gathering – donaldshenk@sanmarinoucc.org or 626/292-2080.

What’s Happening...

- **TUES. 7pm – SOUL FOOD** will meet in the Green Room downstairs.
- **WEDS. ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AND POTLUCK** at the First Congregational UCC in Glendale, 2001 Canada Blvd., Glendale, CA 91208. The potluck begins at 6:00 P.M. and the Ash Wednesday service starts at 7:00 P.M. **We will carpool from the church parking lot at 5:15pm.** Bring your favorite dish and let us worship God together along with our sisters and brothers from five other UCC churches. The preacher will be our interim Conference Minister the Rev. Dr. Jane Fislser Hoffman.
- **THURS. 7pm – THE UNITED VOICES** will rehearse in the sanctuary.
- **SUNDAY 2pm – Sacred Writing Workshop** with Ray McGinnis (\$15 payable at the door)
RSVP to donaldshenk@sanmarinoucc.org

COMING UP:

Feb. 27 – The Spirit and the Screen presents **The Secret of Roan Inish** in our theatre at 7pm.

Feb. 28 – Joint worship service with **Refiner’s Fire** congregation.