

**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!”**



February 21, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

For Reflection

“My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”
Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
(Psalm 91:2; 9-10)

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 OF LENT**

“Blest Are They” and “Let Us Be Bread”

***OPENING PRAYER**

Warren Scherffius

Liturgist: Good morning, Loving God, Creator of the Universe and Giver of Life to all beings. Your Name is Blessed! Your ways are magnificent. You alone are our God..

People: We are your people. We praise your Holy Name.

Liturgist: Caring One, we bow humbly before you. We seek shelter in your Holy Place.

People: Our faith is in you, O God. Our faith is in you alone.

Liturgist: Thank you for walking with us and showing us the way. Take our hand, Precious God, and lead us on.

People: We follow you. Show us the way.

Liturgist: You have called us to be peaceful people. Your Son, Jesus, leads us in the way of peace, love, and mercy.

People: Give us courage, O God, in the struggle for justice and peace.

Liturgist: Teach us your law and strengthen our hearts through days of trouble.

People: Have mercy on us and guide our feet. We give you praise. Hallelujah! Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

***A SONG FOR LENT**

“Give Me a Clean Heart” (#188)

Congregation

The Congregation may be seated.

A TIME TO SHARE

Looking towards One Great Hour of Sharing

Holly Ann Burns

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

“Spending Time in the Desert”

Pastor Cribbs

OUR COMMON PRAYER

“O God, who art in heaven...”

Congregation

MUSIC TO BLESS THE CHILDREN

“Children, Welcome”

Congregation

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	Luke 4:1-13	Warren Scherffius
SONG OF PREPARATION	"Here's One" <i>A Spiritual arranged by Bob Burroughs</i>	The United Voices Choir
REFLECTIONS	"Wilderness Companions"	Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs
SONG OF RESPONSE	"The Lord is Ever Watchful" <i>By Felix Mendelssohn (from Elijah)</i>	Soloist: Adrian Rosales
A TIME TO GIVE		Warren Scherffius
A TIME TO ACT		Donald Shenk
A TIME TO DEDICATE OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS		Warren Scherffius
Thank you, O God, for these gifts brought by your people. Thank you for your many blessings that made this offering possible. Receive this money for the support of your ministries through this congregation and the United Church of Christ. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to your service. Amen.		
A TIME FOR PRAYER	"Come, Bring Your Burdens to God"	Prayer time led by Pastor Cribbs
SENDING HYMN	"Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days" (#211)	Congregation
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Cribbs
*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT		Warren Scherffius
*GOING FORTH		Instrumentalists

Everyone is welcome next door for the Social Time.

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.

What are you doing with your life? Are you satisfied? Are you comfortable? Have you decided to practice a Lenten discipline of sacrifice?

Lent is a season when followers of Jesus reflect on the significance of life and God's expectations for us. We think about those 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness and the temptations he faced after going without food or shelter. Totally exposed and vulnerable, Jesus discovered the true meaning of his ministry. He listened to the voices and realized his mind was not his friend. It was deceptive and deceiving. His mind told him what it thought he wanted to hear: eat bread, desire power, and go jump off a building to see if he could fly.

Lent is a special period in which we are encouraged to practice a discipline that prepares us for difficult moments. It is a time to clarify our priorities and explore the range of our commitments. That is what Jesus learned during his wilderness experience. In order for him to go forward with his purpose, he had to be highly disciplined. He spent time alone without companionship in an open space where his relationship with God was deepened.

Where do you go to be with God?

When we take time to be quiet and still, we become able to listen more intentionally. We can distinguish sounds and identify messages. Our ability to know the difference between danger and opportunity is sharpened. Consider what happened to Jesus.

As he ended his time in the desert, those voices began to emerge. Friendly, seductive, and, seemingly, reasonable, Jesus heard temptations to satisfy his hunger by using his new power to 'turn stones into bread'. After all, he was famished. What, without eating for more than a month? So, it seemed reasonable to test his gifts by making food from nothing. But, that smooth, sweet voice had another purpose. It intended to expose his weakness and make him a slave to his appetite. Jesus' time in the wilderness allowed him to recognize the reason for that temptation.

Then, a second voice spoke up. Since Jesus had overcome one basic need and endured solidarity, he was tempted to exploit the world through domination. There was nothing to stop him from leading a campaign to control nations. He had the power. The problem however was that his purpose was to demonstrate love, mercy, and peace. He lived to create community and not empires. His mission was not for his own glory and authority over other people, rather to point humankind toward God.

The third and final effort to break the spirit and will of Jesus was through a persuasive act to fly off a high building and show the world an incredible display of super human power. Like a Superman cartoon, Jesus was confronted with an overwhelming urge. Again, he did not yield. Instead, he responded to that voice resolute and determined not to test God. His examination was complete. He was ready to face the world.

We may not feel called to such a task. Yet, everyday there are situations that require wisdom and discipline. There are temptations that come into our life and we need power over them.

Lent is the season when we acknowledge God's presence and appreciate God's grace. We pay attention to what is taking place around us and we respond appropriately.

Lent is welcomed. We enter this season with the assured God's mercy endures forever. We may feel doubtful about our abilities to overcome temptations, but through prayer, meditation and sacrifice, we discover God gives us strength to beat the odds, and we give praise to the Creator who loves us more than we can imagine. That is what Lent is ultimately all about.

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...

- **TODAY: 2pm** – **Sacred Writing Workshop** with Ray McGinnis (\$15 payable at the door).
- **TUES. 7pm** – **SOUL FOOD** will meet in the Green Room downstairs.
- **WEDS. 12:30pm** – **STAFF MEETING** in Pastor’s Office.
- **THURS. 7pm** – **THE UNITED VOICES** will rehearse in the sanctuary.
- **SAT. 7pm** – **THE SPIRIT & THE SCREEN** presents **The Secret of Roan Inish** in our theatre.

Next Sunday:

- **10am** - The **REFINER’S FIRE** congregation joins us for a joint worship service
- **11:30am** - The new **LEADERSHIP TEAM** will meet in the theatre.