

**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 28, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

**We WELCOME the REFINERS FIRE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
congregation today as they join us in a joint service of worship!**

For Reflection

“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
Whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything
Worthy of praise, think about these things.”
(Philippians 4:8)

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

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs and Rev. Bonnie Radden

***SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT Led by Refiners Fire Praise Band**

Congregation

“Give Him Glory” and “How Great is Our God”

***OPENING PRAYER**

Keith Dillon

Liturgist: Loving, Caring God, your people are gathered to worship you.

People: We give you praise.

Liturgist: Your name is holy above all names. Your mercy endures forever.

People: You alone are God.

Liturgist: ‘Great is your faithfulness... There is no shadow of turning with you. You change not, your compassion fails not...morning by morning new mercies we see.’ We confess our mistakes and ask your forgiveness.

People: Have mercy on us.

Liturgist: You guide us every day each step of the way. Thank you for your abundant blessings.

People: Freely we receive. Freely we give.

Liturgist: Speak to your people, O God, and teach us your ways.

People: You are our God and we are your people. We are listening for your still-speaking voice.

Liturgist: Grant us courage to be makers of peace.

People: So we will be called the people of God.

Liturgist: Open our eyes so we can see what we must do to serve you. Help us, O God, to honor your Name and follow your Commandments.

People: Holy One, help us to see and obey.

Liturgist: Open our ears so we can hear the cries of your children.

People: Caring One, help us to hear.

Liturgist: Open our hearts so we will feel the agony of those who suffer.

People: Merciful One, help us to feel.

Liturgist: Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

People: We are the salt of the earth. We are the light of the world.

ALL: Help us to believe. Help us to do your will. Help us to live as Christ.
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* Carol Barrett

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN "What is beautiful? What is good?" Pastor Cribbs

OUR COMMON PRAYER "O God, who art in heaven..." Congregation

LITURGICAL DANCE Refiners Fire Dancers

Children are welcome to join our Children Worship & Wonder program!

Youth will be joining our special service of worship upstairs today.

After the liturgical dance, children aged 3 through those in 5th grade are invited to process downstairs to the Wonder Room. Childcare for children under age 4 is available in our nursery today with trained and certified childcare provider, Mrs. Barbara Sanchez.

When this program finishes, children will be brought up to social time.

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS Pastor Cribbs

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 13:31-35 Pastor Pauline Watkins

SONG OF PREPARATION Refiners Fire Choir

REFLECTIONS "Strong and Tender" Rev. Art & Rev. Bonnie

SONG OF RESPONSE "His Eye is On the Sparrow"
By Charles Gabriel, Arranged by Ralph Manuel The United Voices Choir

A TIME TO GIVE Keith Dillon

A TIME TO ACT Donald Shenk

A TIME TO DEDICATE OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS Keith Dillon

Everything we have comes from you. All that we give belongs to you. Accept these offerings that are returned to you. Bless the givers of these gifts and multiply what we have brought before you so it will be used in service to your people and to uplift the ministries of the United Church of Christ and our congregations. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you, O God. Amen.

SONG OF DEDICATION The Refiners Fire Choir

A TIME FOR PRAYER "Come, Bring Your Burdens to God" Prayer time led by Pastor Cribbs

SENDING HYMN "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!" Congregation

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Cribbs

***CHANGING OF THE LIGHT** Keith Dillon

***GOING FORTH** Albert Mendoza

Everyone is welcome next door for the Social Time.

Thanks to **Grace Wong, Sunny Kim** and all who contributed to our social time 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.

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It is our great joy to have with us Pastor Bonnie Radden and the Refiners Fire Fellowship United Church of Christ of Long Beach!

As we worship together, we focus our attention on the Creator who gives life and sustains us with love and mercy. Our time in sacred space has greater meaning when brothers and sisters in Christ praise God in unity. Today, we join in a single purpose of celebration and worship. In this way, we seek to strengthen the Church and build a strong foundation of friendship, support and partnership in covenant with each other.

We welcome Pastor Bonnie and all who have come with her. We extend an extravagant and sincere greeting that is bolstered by our love, warmth, and hospitality. This is a 'family reunion' as we blend traditions from our Pentecostal and Congregational heritages. The sounds and rhythms of our separate religious legacies bind us closer to God and give us a special moment to experience the Sacred without shame or apology. We stand humbly and faithfully before God in shared worship that symbolizes the wonderful diversity of our beloved United Church of Christ.

It is quite appropriate for us to be together during this Season of Lent. The Holy Spirit lives within us and is more clearly realized as we listen carefully to the Breath of God flowing among us.

We are in the midst of transformation born of challenge. Profound and significant shifts bind us closer together as we carefully attend to the needs of those most directly and adversely affected by disasters and life changes. This is a special period that requires unusual courage and a depth of faith to address the conditions so many people are facing. We are not exempted from the impact of policies and practices that have turned the world upside down.

"We've come this far by faith" is more than a song or slogan. It is a statement of fact that prods us forward in the face of contradictory evidence that would suggest failure or disappointment. We are 'leaning on the everlasting arms' of God to usher us through these days that try our souls. So, it is good and pleasant to have this joint worship service in which we sing, pray, and share our stories.

"What a fellowship, what a joy divine; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms." That is our song today. We have come together as witnesses of God's grace, love, and mercy. We lean on God as we depend on each other. We bring our concerns and burdens to the altar and place ourselves at the foot of the Cross.

Truly, we have come into this place of worship because we trust God with our lives. We are reminded of Jesus' sacrifice to inspire us to live fully, cheerfully, and faithfully. Jesus is our Savior. We are encouraged to

stand together in solidarity with the poor, vulnerable, and those who suffer. We are here because God has called us to be together as a shield against despair, hopelessness, and temptations to give up.

We find solace and strength when we blend our voices and offer ourselves as people of God to a world that reels from violence, brokenness, and drunkenness. We provide an alternative perspective on life that is committed to making the world safe for children, elders, and all living things. So, let us double our resolve to be a living testament of peace through the exemplary personification of the Good News in our time. Let us worship God together in Spirit, Truth, song and praise.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

What's Happening...

- **TODAY: All God's Family choir practice IMMEDIATELY following worship.**
11:30am - The new **LEADERSHIP TEAM** will meet in the theatre.
- **TUES. 7pm – SOUL FOOD** will meet in the Green Room (**ON CALL for Bad Weather Shelter**).
- **THURS. 7pm – THE UNITED VOICES** will rehearse in the sanctuary.

Next Sunday:

- **Rev. Anne Cohen** returns to our pulpit as Pastor Art begins his vacation.