

**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,



April 11, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Easter

For Reflection

"No matter what happens today
I am going to practice gratitude and joy
Because God is the Source of my life."
(Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs)

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

Pianist: Albert Mendoza

WELCOME

Guest Minister: Rev. Anne Cohen

***SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT**

*"This Little Light of Mine"
"Rain Down"*

Congregation

***OPENING PRAYER**

by Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs

Elsie Stanley

Liturgist: Loving and merciful God, we come into this sanctuary to worship you.

PEOPLE: Your name is above all names.

Liturgist: Thank you for your mercy. Thank you for all your blessings.

PEOPLE: We praise you, O God.

Liturgist: In times of trouble, you are with us. You have never left us.

PEOPLE: Thank you, Caring One, for your love.

Liturgist: You have placed your Creation in our hands. Give us wisdom and courage.

PEOPLE: Teach us your way.

Liturgist: You have presented yourself in the person of Jesus; strengthen our faith.

PEOPLE: Christ, have mercy.

Liturgist: In this moment, fill us with your Holy Spirit and let your peace flow in us.

PEOPLE: We are a peaceful, gentle people.

ALL: Come, O God, and be with us. Come and let us hear your still-speaking voice. Come; we are here to worship you. Hallelujah. Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

***A SONG FOR THE HEART**

"Here I Am"

Congregation

The Congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

"What's a Hero?"

Rev. Anne Cohen

OUR COMMON PRAYER

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 the children and youth have completed their programs, they will be brought up to the social time.

SCRIPTURE READING **John 20:19-31** Elsie Stanley

SONG OF PREPARATION **“1 Thirst for the Living Water”** The United Voices
By Teri Simmons, based on John 4:10-11, 14-15

REFLECTIONS **“My Hero”** Guest Minister: Rev. Anne G. Cohen

A SONG OF RESPONSE **“Humbly I adore Thee”** **Soloist: Annie Simon**
Benedictine Plainsong (13th Century), Arranged by Lloyd Pfautsch

A TIME TO GIVE Elsie Stanley

A TIME TO ACT Donald Shenk

A TIME TO DEDICATE OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS Elsie Stanley

Thank you, O God, for these gifts your people have brought to the altar. You have blessed us beyond measure. Thank you for all you have provided. Bless this offering and use it for the strengthening of this church and the United Church of Christ. Let it be used in your service as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you. Amen.

A TIME FOR PRAYER **“Come Bring Your Burdens to God”** Prayer time led by Rev. Cohen

***SENDING HYMN** **“Let It Breathe On Me” (#288)** Congregation

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Cohen

***CHANGING OF THE LIGHT** Elsie Stanley

***GOING FORTH** Albert Mendoza, Piano

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.



CRIBBS NOTES

REPENT! That is the urgent plea that resounds now as it has for millennia. Unfortunately, our consistent response has been blasé. Although crisis abounds around and amid us, people just don't take seriously the critical cry to turn away from disaster. In fact, our continuous efforts prod us ever closer to the brink of catastrophe without a serious hint of concern. Yet, repent we must!

If ever there was a time in human history when we are compelled to reconsider our deeds, that time is now. Repentance is the act of confessing or naming our mistakes; owning our mistakes; and, vowing

not to repeat our mistakes. A glance at a short list of our human errors reminds us of this clarion call to stop, pray, turn around and repent.

What have we done? We have initiated wars against two nations that have not harmed or threatened the American people. Neither the Iraqis nor the Afghans posed any danger to us; but, we launched massive attacks against the peoples of those countries without cause or provocation.

At the same time, we witnessed the decline of quality education for our children; we retreated from providing social services for our most vulnerable citizens; we created hostilities against our neighbors in Mexico; we increased medical costs for our infirmed and elderly; we threatened the welfare of the unemployed; and we placed jobless workers on the streets as the homeless population exploded across America.

If that were not enough, we have instituted discriminatory language in the California State Constitution banning same-gender loving couples from marriage; and we have abandoned infants, children, and youth who were brought to this country by their parents as undocumented residents. We have made life hard for people who are already struggling. That is just the short list.

We don't need to be reminded of the cruel and inhumane treatment meted against Native Americans and the displacement of Black farmers throughout the South. We need not discuss the trans-Atlantic slave trade and resulting segregation, discrimination, and Jim Crow laws used to torture and maim African Americans, Chinese and Filipino laborers along with their families. Lest we forget, we engaged the lawful detention of Japanese-Americans during World War II and the meager \$20,000 per person restitution paid many years later.

Truly, there is much for which we need to repent. During this twin season of Passover and Easter, we are offered an extraordinary moment to heed the call for a new beginning that is forged by justice, compassion, forgiveness, and love.

There may be temptations to ignore our mistakes and insist that anyone who dares to name our record should leave and find a home somewhere else. That, too, would be consistent with past reactions to such moments. But, today is our time to behave in a manner that encourages us to do better and make changes in our lives that will benefit society and the world. We need to take inventory of our priorities and make adjustments that will bring hope and healing. It is well within our ability to act humanely and honor the gift of sacred life.

“Yes, we can!” is more than a political slogan. It is a pronouncement of possibilities. We are driven to do our best for the good of human history. We must not repeat our mistakes.

We start right where we are within ourselves. The person in the mirror has all the attributes to make a positive change for good. Greed and selfishness have failed us.

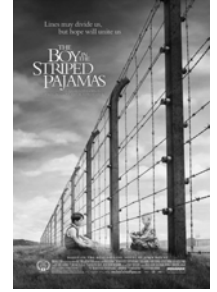
Now, we can provide a liberal dose of caring for others that will enflame a movement toward very different attitudes and behaviors. We can become a people who favor peace as we work diligently to elevate the lives of our neighbors from the depths of despair, poverty, and alienation. We begin where we are and with others around us who share our commitment to act justly with mercy and humility. Yes, we can and we must repent.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

What's Happening...

- **TODAY: StillSpeaking Theatre Directors** will meet in the theatre after the social time.

- **TUES:** 7pm – **SOUL FOOD BIBLE STUDY** in the Green Room. We will explore, examine, and share reflections on Christ's Passion and its meaning for our times.
- **WEDS:** 6:45pm –**The TRUSTEES** will have an Investment Mtg. in the Green Room.
- **THURS:** 7pm – **THE UNITED VOICES** will rehearse in the sanctuary.
- **SAT:** 6:30m - **The Spirit & The Screen film club** will convene at Vivi Oldknow's home for dinner and a screening of "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" (mature audiences only). RSVP to Vivi via email (vivienne.oldknow@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.
- **SUNDAY:** 10am – **The Rev. Anne Cohen** delivers the morning reflections. We will celebrate **EARTH DAY** in word and music. **LEADERSHIP TEAM** meets in the theatre after the social time.



Coming Up...

- Friday, 4/23 – **SPIRE newsletter** deadline
- Saturday, 4/24 – 3pm - **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CATHY DEARINGER**
- Sunday, 4/25 – **Pastor Art** returns to the pulpit; All God's Family Choir rehearsal
- Wednesday, 4/28 – 6:45pm - **The Trustees** will have their regular meeting in the Art Room.
- Saturday, 5/1 – **CENTRAL ASSOC. SPRING MTG.** at Montebello UCC, 8am registration