

SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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“Never place a period
Where God has placed a comma”

[Gracie Allen]

God is still speaking,

April 19, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter

INTEGRITY OF CREATION SUNDAY

For Reflection

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
(Psalm 133:1)

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.

*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 worship today.*

**The asterisk indicates the times when you are invited to stand if the Spirit so moves you.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen

Albert Mendoza at the piano

WELCOME

Pastor Art Cribbs

***SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT**

Congregation

“Glory, Glory, Hallelujah”
“Rain Down”

***OPENING PRAYER**

Scott Cameron

O Holy God, we stand before you humbly and in awe! We have come to this place to worship you. Blessed is your name. You are light. You give us life. You are love. Your love for the world has given to us Jesus. You have called us out of darkness. You have lifted us from death and sin. You cradle and protect us. We give you thanks. Thank you for not turning away from us. Thank you for not giving up on us. Thank you for holding us close to you. Thank you for Jesus Christ! You have erased our mistakes and you have made us new again. Praise your Holy Name! Come now, O God, and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to believe and be more faithful. Help us to be strong and courageous. Help us, O God, not to be afraid. Come now, Great Spirit, and let us worship you. Hallelujah! Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

***A SONG FOR INTEGRITY OF CREATION SUNDAY**

Congregation

“These Hills”

The congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Pastor Art Cribbs

Story: “Walking and Talking with Jesus”
Our Common Prayer
Music to Bless the Children

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

Scott Cameron

CHORAL REFLECTION FOR EARTH DAY

The United Voices

“The Blue Green Hills of Earth”
by Kim Oler, Arranged by David Haas

REFLECTIONS

“Marks of Faith”

Pastor Art Cribbs

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR CREATION SUNDAY

Soloist: Ann Simon

“Colors of the Wind”

Menken/Schwartz

OUR COMMON LIFE

A Time to Give

Scott Cameron

A Time to Act

Donald Shenk

A Time to Dedicate Ourselves and Our Gifts

Congregation

O God, thank you for this offering brought to your altar. Receive and bless it so it will be used to support the ministries of this congregation and the United Church of Christ. We are grateful for all you provide. Help us in this hour to remember those who are without and others whose lives have been changed because of economic challenges and injustice. Be with us, O God, as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you. Amen.

A Time to Reflect

“God, Fill Me Now”

A Time to Pray

Prayers of the People

REFLECTING MUSIC

“Let It Breathe On Me”

Congregation

Hymnal #288 (words will appear on screen)

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Cribbs

***CHANGING OF THE LIGHT**

Scott Cameron

***GOING FORTH**

Instrumentalists

**We express a warm welcome to all who are here today!
Please stop by next door in the Fellowship Hall
to enjoy some refreshments and fellowship.**

**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 and a nametag and**

receive information about everything happening here.

What's Happening...

TODAY after worship:

- **The Chancel Choir will meet for rehearsal at 11:30am in the Sanctuary.**
- **The Board of Deacons will meet in the Green Room downstairs**
- **The Adult Bible Study Group will meet in the Art Room for a special session with Spiritual leader, Elsa Seiffert – ALL are invited.**
- **Tues.: 7pm SOUL FOOD meets in the Pastor's Office.**
- **Weds: 6:15pm CHURCH COUNCIL meets in the Green Room.**
- **Thurs.: There will be NO United Voices Choir rehearsal this week.**
- **Friday: 6:30pm The Spirit & The Screen film club presents, "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" at the Oldknow home (2439 Coniston Place, San Marino).**
- **Saturday: 8pm AND THE WINNER IS in the StillSpeaking Theatre.**

WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

April 26, 2009 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Pastor Art's topic: "Christ Among Us"

Text: Luke 24:36b-48

Congregational Exchange Sunday – Welcome our

CRIBBS NOTES

on the Pastor's Message



The celebration of Easter is not over! In fact, in the Orthodox Christian tradition today

is Easter Sunday. Yes, we are in the midst of the Easter Season. There is good news for the world. God's love cannot be extinguished. Calendars cannot limit the amount of time we share in the joy of Resurrection. New life is extended to all of us.

As we reflect on the events that sent the followers of Jesus behind locked doors and kept them there in a state of fear and despair, we recognize ourselves

huddled with them. Two millennia later, many Christians are still afraid; too scared to walk through the streets proclaiming Good News of God's love. Many Christians are afraid to live authentic lives based on our faith in Jesus Christ. When we consider the state of shock that trapped Jesus' disciples in a house for at least a week after his Resurrection, we realize many of us are shut up behind closed doors as well.

Fear will silence the voices of the faith community. We can become mute and not speak out about the conditions that threaten peace in the world. But, more than mere words are required in times like these. Two wars continue to rage more than six years after they began. A wake of more than 4,000 American bodies lie in the path of destruction and untold numbers of Iraqi, Pakistani, and Afghani peoples are dead, displaced, and living with despair. Many in the faith community have not spoken up because of fear, confusion, or lack of knowing what to say or do.

Families and individuals across America are scared because they have lost their jobs, homes, and pensions. They have watched their savings dwindle and their hopes for better days have dissipated. Corruption, neglect, greed, and avarice have overwhelmed those once strong and proud. Many people of faith have become spectators standing on the sidelines of human brokenness.

Into the fray of personal and global events Jesus stands among us. He who had been murdered in a public execution returned to life. Those followers who denied and betrayed him experienced the amazing presence of their leader. Jesus came back with a clear and simple word: "Peace!"

There was no condemnation or recrimination. Jesus did not bring harsh judgment or accusations. Jesus returned with a spirit of mercy, forgiveness, and understanding. He breathed on his disciples the Spirit of Peace. It is that same peace given to us. Peace that brings unity and bolsters the souls of those of us who don't fully understand the power of God's grace.

During this Easter Season, we are reminded of the reason Jesus was born and how he died. We return to the moment when three women witnessed his living presence and were struck with terror and awe. It was an unbelievable encounter that continues to inspire and elevate us.

The marks of faith are demonstrated everyday in the mundane and dramatic activities that bring people closer together. During times when we have an absolute sense of vulnerability and we know only God can get us through, our faith becomes most pronounced. We move from fear to resolution. We humbly submit our lives to God and offer ourselves as part of a faith community united by love and forgiveness. We say to each other in the words Jesus greeted his community, "Shalom! As-salaam-alaikum! Peace be upon you."

-Pastor Art Cribbs



From the UCC Calendar of Prayer for today:

It takes great faith and courage to remain strong in the face of great tragedy. Survivors of the massive 2008 earthquake in southwest China, while struggling with tremendous loss and grief, began the long process of rebuilding and healing. Two days after the quake, Wang Pingjiu, a staff member of the Cultural Activities Department of the Beijing Organizing Committee of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, wrote the lyrics to Be Together, Alive or Not. The song was performed by actor Jackie Chan.

Be together, alive or not, for there rests your dream so quiet
 Dream of continuing a life
 The sky has lost its beauty, but still you wait to stand up, try after try
 Wherever you are, I'll spare no expense to find you
 Miracles are made by veins of mankind
 And right engraved in my blood is your cry
 Be together, alive or not, and I'm awaiting news about you as seconds tick by
 Believe in your strong life
 You're out of my sight, but never out of my mind
 Wherever you are, I'll spare no expense to find you
 Miracles are made by veins of mankind
 For we join hands and make roads to your home site
 Be together, alive or not, for that makes silence heard worldwide
 Feel the pain but never cry
 Love is your legend and after the storm rainbows will rise
 Wherever you are, I'll spare no expense to find you
 Miracles are made by veins of mankind
 And your faint hope is all my drive

Prayer:

Light of the world, shine upon us and disperse the clouds of our selfishness, that we may reflect the power of the resurrection in our life together. Amen.

Wider Church Ministries:

<http://www.globalministries.org/eap/countries/china/>

MISSION MOMENT:

Let All Praise with Joy the World's Creator

Ah, Spring! Fresh breezes, a new palette of colors, the earth changing daily before our eyes—a time so full of promise it's easy to “Praise with Joy the World's Creator,” as the hymn goes. And a time to remember we are entrusted with God's marvelous handiwork. We hold it in common so that all may enjoy and praise in this generation and in years to come.

As communities across the U.S. celebrate Earth Day on April 22, we can look back in history and discover yet another UCC first. Twenty years ago, on the eve of Earth Day 1987, the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice published a landmark report, “Toxic Waste and Race.” For the first time in history, the disproportionate burden borne by African American, Latino, Native American, and Asian American communities as the “dumping grounds” for our nation's waste and pollution was documented.

Funded by Our Church's Wider Mission, the study looked at every zip code in the United States and identified where toxic waste sites were located. It found that race was the most significant factor, even more significant than poverty. “Toxic Waste and Race” led to the coining of the term “environmental racism” and helped to jump start the environmental justice movement.

April 2009
God is still speaking,



CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator.....Susan Jakubowski-Weiner
Treasurer Scott Cameron
Clerk..... Donald Shenk
Financial Secretary Dick Lashley
Historian Virginia Lashley
Past Moderator Connie James-Gililand

STAFF

Pastor..... Art Cribbs
Pastoral Assistant, Director of Music/Theatre Donald Shenk
Preschool Director Connie James-Gililand
Keyboard.....Albert Mendoza
Brass..... Murray Middleman
Section Leaders Alexandra Loutsion (Mez); Guylaine Bouchard (alto);
Ann Simon, (sop); Benjamin Cortez (ten); Adrian Rosales (bass)
Director of Christian Education Cathy Kotowski
Childcare Provider Barbara Sanchez
Ceremony Coordinator..... Donald Shenk
Sound Technician Eric Stimes
Usher Team Gary Henville & John Stanley
Webperson..... Holly Ann Burns
Interim Conference Ministers Rev. Jane Hoffman
Rev. June Boutwell

Our Mission: “In response to God's all-encompassing presence and unconditional love, we at San Marino Congregational United Church of Christ, a worship-centered community, are spreading the Good News of God's love to all, working to heal human divisions, and striving for peace and justice.”

We are an Open and Affirming (“ONA”) church. We affirm the rich complexity of God's creation, which includes every person and many forms of family. We welcome into our open communion and community God's beloved children of all ethnicities, nationalities, ages, genders, sexual orientations, physical or mental limitations, economic and family circumstances, and faith backgrounds. We affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships. We commit ourselves to the defense of the spiritual, civic, and human rights of all people, and to the promotion of their well being in our Church and communities.