

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 29, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Easter

For Reflection

“We have to find ways to rebuild the foundations of our communities and to offer people something to believe in. The things you were offered in the past may have been too abstract and presented too coercively. Perhaps you thought that science would bring ease to society or Marxism would bring social justice, and your beliefs have been shattered.

Even the God you prayed to---the one President Bush invoked to help the United States defeat Iraq---was too small. Many of the people who represented your tradition had not themselves experienced the deepest values of the tradition; they only spoke in its name and tried to force you to believe, and you felt turned off. Mindfulness is something we can believe in. It is our capacity of being aware of what is going on in the present moment.”

From, Touching Peace: Practicing the Art of Mindful Living
by Thich Nhat Hanh

Please stop by the Sound Booth if you wish to use a sound receiver today.
*The asterisk indicates the times when you are invited to stand if the Spirit so moves you.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Chip Colvin

WELCOME & OUR COMMON LIFE Breanna Sanchez

WE WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen
“Come and Be Light for Our Eyes” by David Haas

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Breanna Sanchez

Great Creator, God of the Universe, Author of Life: your people are gathered in this sanctuary, your House of Prayer. We are aware of your holy presence. We are thankful for your mercy. We call to you with gladness and thanksgiving. Thank you for filling our lungs with your breath of life. Thank you for getting us up this morning and carrying us into this place. Right now, O God, guide us to be more mindful of you. Open our eyes so we can see your Goodness and give you praise. Open our hearts so we can feel the needs of your people and befriend one another. Open our ears so we can hear the voices of your children and share your Word. Thank you, Great Creator, for this moment of worship. We praise you and submit ourselves to you. Let our love go forth and our peace fill every soul. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory” NCH #436
Congregation Hughes/Fosdick

The congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Offering (the children’s plate is passed to collect their offerings)

Story “What’s Going On?” Pastor Art Cribbs

Our Common Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All children are invited to process to Children Worship & Wonder. Michelle Naylor will be sharing a story today. Barbara Sanchez is available to care for the youngest children.

Music to Bless the Children

“Children Welcome”
Edwards, arr. Fitch

Refrain: **Children welcome in the name of Jesus.
Children welcome in the name of love.**

**Children offer us gifts for living, with hearts opened wide, clear eyes to see,
Minds full of wonder, hands full of helping, joy as we follow where they lead.**

WE EXPERIENCE THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:36-43

Breanna Sanchez

New Revised Standard Version

Pew Bible page 160

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Stand By Me”

Chancel Choir

Words and Music by Charles A. Tindley (1851-1933), Arr. by Jewel Taylor Thompson

REFLECTIONS

“God’s Business”

Pastor Cribbs

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS, OUR LIVES

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Call for the Offering

Breanna Sanchez

Music for Meditation/Offertory

Chip Colvin

*Congregational Response

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

NCH #780

Bourgeois/Ken

*Dedication of Ourselves and Our Gifts (unison)

Breanna Sanchez

Receive now, O God, these gifts that come from you and are placed in our hands to use in service to your people in all places. You know our hearts and our desires to return the best and first fruits of our labor unto you. Here, take what belongs to you, O God, and free us from pains of selfishness and greed. Thank you, dear God, for accepting what we have brought to you. Renew us. Revive us. Receive us as we dedicate our lives to you. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Preparation for Prayer

“God, Fill Me Now”

Congregation

**God, fill me now, fill me with your Holy Spirit.
You give me life, and you draw me to your presence.
Here before you now; see, my hands are empty.
God, fill me now with you.**

Prayers of the People

Pastor Cribbs

*SENDING HYMN *“There Are Some Things I May Not Know”*
Congregation

NCH #405

Morris

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Cribbs

*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT

Breanna Sanchez

*POSTLUDE

Chip Colvin