

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,**

May 3, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter



**For Reflection**

“When the foreigner resides  
 with you in your land,  
 you shall not oppress the foreigner.  
 The foreigner who resides with you  
 shall be to you as the  
 citizen among you;  
 you shall love the foreigner as yourself,  
 for you were foreigners in the  
 land of Egypt:  
 I am the Lord your God.”  
 (Leviticus 19:33-34 and 24:22)

*Children and Youth are invited to participate in today’s worship service.  
 The first Sunday of every month is set aside to be an intergenerational service.  
 All other Sundays, the children and youth participate in their own  
 worship services downstairs while the service is going on upstairs.  
 Childcare for children under age 4 is available in our nursery today  
 with trained, certified childcare provider, Mrs. Barbara Sanchez*

*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: Camille Cribbs

Albert Mendoza at the piano

**WELCOME**

Pastor Art Cribbs

**\*SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT**

Congregation

“We Are Marching In the Light of God”  
 “Sing of Colors”

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Susan Jakubowski-Weiner

*(By Rev. Loren McGrail, UCC Chaplain, Minneapolis, MN)*

**Source of Life who is known by many names; Over-turner and illuminator of hearts; we gather with gratitude for the earth and all who journey in it. We give thanks for the interconnectedness of all creation. Source of justice who is known by many names; let us not swerve from the path of righteousness that leads to just and equitable relationships. Open our eyes that we may see the immigrant and undocumented; whose labor enables and sustains our living; the farm worker, the hotel worker, the line cook, the childcare provider, the healthcare worker; Give us the will to leave behind the safety of our sanctuaries to become your living sanctuary; and claim our place in the movement to transform creation; that our voice, our heart, our spirit will join the voice, hear and spirit of all who demand to live with respect, justice, and peace. Amen.**

**\*A SONG FOR IMMIGRATION RIGHTS SUNDAY**

Congregation

“Come to Me, Come to Us”

*The congregation may be seated.*

**TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**

Pastor Art Cribbs

Story: “Welcoming the Stranger”  
 Music to Bless the Children

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      John 10:11-18                      Susan Jakubowski-Weiner

**CHORAL MUSIC**                      *“Heart of a Shepherd”*                      The United Voices  
Verses: Psalm 23, *The Grail*, Verse Melody: Joseph Gelineau, SJ  
Refrain & Arrangement of Verses by Rory Cooney

**REFLECTIONS**                      *“Enfolded by Love”*                      Pastor Art Cribbs

**SERVICE OF COMMUNION**

We Sing                      *“Jesus Took the Bread”*                      Verses 1, 3 & 4  
*(NCH #343 – words will appear on screen)*

We Commemorate                      Words of Institution  
Our Common Prayer

We Share                      All are invited to the communion table.  
*(If it is best that you be served in your seat,  
please raise your hand, and a Deacon will serve you.)*

We Listen                      Special Music for Communion                      Alexandra Loutsion

We Give Thanks                      Unison Prayer  
**We affirm the goodness of life and the openness of the future because our God is a God of life and love. As God comes to us in this act of communion, so let us go out to others in acts which bring healing, reconciliation and hope to our world. Amen.**

**OUR COMMON LIFE**

A Time to Give                      Susan Jakubowski-Weiner  
A Time to Act                      Donald Shenk  
A Time to Dedicate Ourselves and Our Gifts                      Congregation

**Thank you, Great Spirit, for the offerings of your people. Receive this money as a continuing means to support the ministries of this congregation and the United Church of Christ. Let it be used for the uplift of your Kingdom on Earth. Bless each one who is here today and allow us to be a blessing to others as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you, O God. Amen.**

A Time to Reflect                      **“God, Fill Me Now”**  
A Time to Pray                      Prayers of the People

**REFLECTING MUSIC**                      *“Lead Us From Death to Life”*                      Congregation  
Hymnal #581 (words will appear on screen)

**\*BENEDICTION**                      Pastor Cribbs

**\*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT**                      Susan Jakubowski-Weiner

**\*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.**

**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 Adult Bible Study Group will meet in the Green Room.**
- **3pm AND THE WINNER IS in the StillSpeaking Theatre**
- **Tues.: 7pm SOUL FOOD meets in the Pastor's Office.**
- **Thurs.: 7:00pm United Voices Choir rehearsal.**
- **Friday: 6-8:30pm Parents Night Out at Preschool.**
- **Saturday: 8pm AND THE WINNER IS in the StillSpeaking Theatre.**

**WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY  
May 10, 2009 – MOTHER'S DAY  
Pastor Art's topic: “Abiding in Love”      Text: John**

## CRIBBS NOTES

on the Pastor's Message



**Immigrant Rights Sunday** is a new event in the life of the United Church of Christ. Although our denomination has been actively involved in advocating for the rights of immigrants, this is the first time we have designated a Sunday to focus our attention on the challenges many people face when they arrive in the United States.

One of the most controversial issues debated in Congress deals with immigration. Actually, this is a subject that dates back to the founding years of this nation. Although many men argued against making the new country a safe haven for immigrants, people flowed into the United States from Europe and Africa in large numbers.

Ironically, indigenous peoples on this land had received the settlers, at least initially, with welcoming hospitality. For the most part, there was curiosity about the foreigners who landed on the Eastern shores, yet resources were shared to alleviate conditions of malnutrition, thirst, and weariness. Many of the European settlers were ill; others had died onboard vessels as they crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

For the early Africans arriving in the New World, their plight was one of involuntary servitude and slavery. Bound together and packed in the hulls of ships, they were transported to ports from New Amsterdam to the Carolinas against their will. They were aliens in a strange place far from their homelands.

Today, people continue to make passage into the United States as they traverse hot deserts, cold mountains, oceans, and a great land mass. Many continue a long tradition of nomadic patterns to visit blood relatives and find work. They come because of connections made through foreign policies that link nations together. Global economic practices create conditions that make people dependent on others who reside great distances apart.

Those of us who live in Southern California witness the movements of families and individuals who cross the International Border at San Ysidro, the busiest border crossing in the world. In recent years, the government of the United States has taken drastic measures to fortify and militarize that stretch of land from the Pacific Ocean to Texas in an effort to stymie immigrants from entering this country.

The people of God were given very specific commandments about how to receive and welcome foreigners. God said, "You shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were foreigners."

Too often the treatment of immigrants does not reflect how God instructed us to love them. Instead, the most vulnerable, desperate and poorest foreigners are abused, stigmatized, incarcerated, and made scapegoats for many of the social and economic problems we face as a nation. It is unfair and wrong. Indeed, it is sinful because such treatment violates the exact and clear commandment of God.

As we observe this first Immigrant Rights Sunday, let us consider how we can comply with God's commandment. Let us together determine how this congregation can work on behalf of the immigrants who are mistreated because of their legal status. God has told us how we are to receive and love them. Let us do just that.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

### From the UCC Calendar of Prayer for today:

We were in a small room riveted by the presentation of four women who are part of a *collectiva* in the community of Colonia Chilpancingo. They had organized with others to advocate for a clean up of a toxic waste site in their community. Magdalena Cerda Baez is a key leader and organizer of the effort. Magdalena is also a member of the Advisory Committee to the Romero Center Border Ministries at the U.S./Mexican border. The Romero Center in San Ysidro, Calif. was founded by a partnership between the Southern California/Nevada Conference and Justice and Witness Ministries to provide first hand opportunities to learn about the U.S./Mexican border reality.

The community of Colonia Chilpancingo is home to approximately 1,000 families along the U.S./Mexico border. On the east side of Colonia Chilpancingo rows of makeshift housing, that provides inadequate shelter even on the best of days, is inhabited by struggling *maquiladora* workers. Chilpancingo, as so many other border towns, is exposed to toxic pollution from nearby *maquiladoras*. Residents find themselves regularly walking through toxic runoff from the abandoned lead smelting factory flows, turning the water into a rust-colored poisonous concoction. Chilpancingo's children play in water that is contaminated.

The women of the *collectiva* had organized and sued the U.S. and Mexican governments demanding that the area be cleaned up; and after considerable legal hurdles, they won a major victory and the area has indeed been cleaned up. Glowing in the sudden awareness that they could make a difference, these humble yet powerful women share their story with Centro Romero visitors.

We ask for prayers for those immigrants on both sides of the border; those who have been displaced in their own country and those who fight for the rights of the displaced on both sides of the Mexican/U.S. border.

**Prayer: *Shepherd of all, by laying down your life for your flock you reveal your love for all. Lead us from the place of death to the place of abundant life, that guided by your care for us, we may rightly offer our lives in love for you and our neighbors. Amen.***

**Justice & Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ**

## **MISSION MOMENT: Be Doers of the Word**

An old, established church stood at the intersection of two busy streets. Around the corner was a popular restaurant. One Sunday, a retired pastor and member of the congregation preached the sermon at the church.

**“If both this church and that restaurant burned down, which one would the neighborhood miss more?” she asked.** The congregation stirred, and voices murmured in the sanctuary. “Well, which one?” the preacher repeated. Grudgingly, the congregation responded: “The restaurant.”

How many other congregations would answer in the same way? Church buildings and what goes on inside of them may be important to the families who belong, but even members often have to admit that their church offers little to the wider community.

Early in his distinguished preaching career, Fred B. Craddock was called to a small, comfortable church just as the government announced a large project that would bring many construction workers temporarily into the area. Seeing an opportunity for ministry, Rev. Craddock called the church leaders together and said: “What's our plan?” They had no plan, he discovered, because they had no intention of reaching out to the newcomers. In fact, the board changed the bylaws to state that for a family to belong to this church they must own property in the county.

Years later, while passing through the area, Fred Craddock stopped to visit the church. When he arrived at the site, the parking lot was full. Then he saw the sign: “All You Can Eat: \$4.99.” The church was now a restaurant.

**May 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.