

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 6, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Easter

For Reflection

“One day we will learn that the heart can never be totally right if the head is totally wrong. Only through the bringing together of head and heart---intelligence and goodness---shall (a person) rise to a fulfillment of (one’s) true nature.”
(From Strength to Love by Martin Luther King Jr.)

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

ORGAN PRELUDE

Dr. Barbara Artinian

WELCOME & OUR COMMON LIFE

Scott Cameron

WE WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Acolyte: Alan King

“Rain Down” by Jaime Cortez (based on Psalm 33)

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Scott Cameron

Good morning, God, Great Creator; our God. Here we are again in Your House of Prayer; Your Sanctuary. We are here to listen for Your Voice. We have come to draw closer to you. In this moment, we want to know what you have called us to do. We need your instruction. Yes, we know you have given us Your Laws, Your Commandments. Sometimes we make mistakes and fail to obey You. Have mercy on us. Truly, we want to do better. We can do better. We will do better. Right now, O God, we are calling You. We are Your people. You are our God. We worship You. Breathe on us and make us new. Speak. We are listening. Thank you, loving God. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN “Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped”
Congregation

NCH #22
Bennett/Neander

The congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

Story “Do You See What I See?” 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.

*This is our “Common Sunday” –
children are invited to stay upstairs with their parents for today’s service.
However, Barbara Sanchez is available to care for the youngest children.*

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 and CELEBRATE COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE READING

New Testament

Acts 11:1-18

New Revised Standard Version

Scott Cameron

Pew Bible p. 162

CHORAL ANTHEM

“*Blest Are You*”

Chancel Choir

Psalm 28 (adapted) with music by Liam Lawton, arranged by John Drummond

Violinist: Laurie Niles

REFLECTIONS

What Do You See?

Pastor Cribbs



COMMUNION HYMN “*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*”
verses 1 and 2

NCH # 345
Liturgy of St. James

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Art Cribbs

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*All are invited to the communion table. We serve by Intinction, and so invite you to
take a piece of bread and dip it in the grape juice in remembrance of Jesus.*

*If it is best that you be served in your seat,
please let an usher know, and a Deacon will serve you.*

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

Dr. Barbara Artinian

**Thank you, loving Creator, for sharing from your bounty. Thank you for
this moment in remembrance of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for his
courageous and creative gift of new life. Thank you for your mercy and
forgiveness of our mistakes. Humbly, we give you praise for liberation
and salvation. Now, dear God, we ask that you receive our true
expressions of appreciation and gratitude for all that you are to us.
Freely we have received, freely we give. Thank you for being with us
even beyond our imagination. Thank you, O God. Amen.**

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS, OUR LIVES

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Call for the Offering

Scott Cameron

Offertory

Dr. Barbara Artinian

*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)

Scott Cameron

**Here we are, O God, just as we are. We dedicate ourselves to you.
We return to you a mere portion of your gifts...gifts from your
bounty generously put into our hands. Your life is placed in our
bodies. You, O God, have been so kind and good. You have supplied
our needs and our desires. Thank you. Now, we want you to take
what belongs to you. We belong to you. The money we have been
given belongs to you. We give you but your own. We dedicate
ourselves and our gifts in your name. 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** “*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*” **NCH #393**
Congregation Nägeli/Fawcett

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Cribbs

***CHANGING OF THE LIGHT** Scott Cameron

***ORGAN POSTLUDE** Dr. Barbara Artinian

*The flowers on the altar today are donated in honor of
Vivi and Gerry Oldknow’s birthdays this past week.
Everyone is welcome to enjoy food, beverages
and conversation in Crist Hall following the service.*



**Today is All Church Work Day –
please help yourselves to pizza and salad!**

We express a **warm welcome** to all who have joined us this morning. This Church is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, a denomination dedicated to spiritual growth, faith with action and social transformation.

VISITORS: 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 the exciting things happening here!



“I am glad to be here,” is a phrase that has new meaning for me. Usually, it is a statement given at the beginning of a speech. We hear it from friends after traveling a distance to visit us. But, today, it means quite literally how blessed I am to be here alive.

A few years ago while traveling in Nigeria, the vehicle in which I was riding was struck head on by another vehicle on a two-lane highway the locals refer to as “Blood Alley.” The head-on collision was sudden and terrifying. I was not wearing a seat belt. My body flopped forward as my head crashed into the windshield. In an instant, life seemed too brief and final. A few days later while worshiping with our international partners at a Presbyterian Church, Ghana, congregation, I spoke those words with a depth of sincerity unknown within my soul until then, “I am glad to be here.” It was absolutely true.

Today, I speak those words again. Last Sunday I left worship in haste to attend the 90th birthday party of a dear and wonderful friend in San Diego. The evening before, I had gassed up my car to avoid any delays. The trip was planned to allow some time for traffic and an on time arrival. There is always a possibility unexpected events can occur to make the best laid plans go awry. Such was the case. Just as I drove across the San Juan Capistrano City Limit on Interstate 5, traveling in the number one lane, the fast lane, I felt a slight bump and my car began handling differently. I looked to my left and then through the rear view mirror. There was no on-coming traffic. I moved to the right toward the far shoulder. As I slowed down there was a strange sound and the drive became rough to handle. I put on my flashers just as the steering wheel became difficult to control. Ahead, about a half-mile was an exit. I saw two gas stations.

Unfortunately, we no longer have service stations readily available. On a Sunday, service bays are closed and mechanics have the day off. As I drove into the nearest gas station, I stopped, got out, walked around my car, and discovered my rear passenger tire had blown out. It was shredded. It had a blow out while driving in the fast lane on Interstate 5.

The big event was more than an hour away. I had 75 minutes to get there on time to give the opening prayer and make comments.

God works in mysterious ways! Indeed. A quick change of the tire to a small spare and off to a brand name tire store. No lines. No wait. A new tire was purchased and installed. I was back on the freeway and heading to the party. Forty five minutes behind schedule. Upon arrival, late, I said with all truthfulness and gratitude, "I am glad to be here."

Throughout the ordeal, I thought about the deaths of David Halberstam, the great Pulitzer Prize winning American journalist, who died that week in an automobile accident in the Bay Area, and St. Louis Cardinal Baseball pitcher Josh Hancock who was killed earlier Sunday morning in a car crash. Then, there I was with a blown tire on I-5. My mind raced. With every breath I offered prayers of thanksgiving and appreciation. Truly, I am glad to be here.

Life is precious and fragile. It is not to be taken for granted. Life is not inward or selfish. We are connected to others. Our existence is based on our relationships. It is important for us to share ourselves and our resources generously and unselfishly. God's gift to all of us is the presence of others.

At our best, we love, forgive, and share. We are glad to be with each other. If you haven't done so lately, take some time and give yourself away to someone who needs to hear from you. When you meet, you may want to say, "I am glad to be here."

-Pastor Art Cribbs

This Week...

Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY in the Fireside Room
Pastor Art will lead the discussion most every Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. in the Fireside Room. The discussion will focus on God's love and our liberation. Everyone is welcome! First up is Amos. Jonah is on deck. Luke is in the hole. Genesis is in the clean-up position.

Thursday: Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

Next Sunday * May 13, 2007

MOTHER'S DAY

Sermon: MOTHER - Text: Psalm 67

Liturgist: Daryl Burns Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen

Looking Ahead...

Monday, May 14: 6:45pm - Trustees meet in Pastor's Office
Sunday, May 20: Installation of Pastor Art Cribbs @ 3:00pm
(catered dinner to follow service)
Childcare provided.

News from our Association

The Central Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference held its Spring Meeting last week at the Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship in Los Angeles. San Marino United Church of Christ was represented by Donald Shenk, Susan Jakubowski, and Art Cribbs. Good news comes from that gathering, including Susan was elected "member-at-large" to the Association board of directors, and Art was elected vice moderator. That means, we at San Marino are right in the middle of all the happenings in our association and Conference. Stay tuned! The other good news is Donald sat patiently on his hands and resisted the temptation to bring his leadership skills to the board. It required great discipline for him not to add another job to his already very full list of commitments. (*written by Pastor Art*)

San Marino Congregational UCC is 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.

God is still hearing Our Prayers...

for LIFE TRANSITIONS...

Julie Allen, *living now in Wisconsin*
Guylaine Bouchard and her family,
dealing with deaths of two uncles
Pastor Art and Family, *making*
transition from San Diego to San Marino
Pastor Art's friend, Patt Allison,
dealing with loss of husband, Glenn

Betty & Ken Frank, Our UCC
Missionaries in Turkey
Jeannette Guluzian's son, Dave, and
his crew & their families, *military service*
Gloria Northern, *now on West side*
Shirley Shetler, *living now in Arizona*

for HEALTH...

Brittnie "Sunnie" Aguirre
Ella Blozan, *memory loss*
Guylaine Bouchard's sister, Melina
Guylaine Bouchard's friend, Quan Ha,
dealing with cancer
Anne Brown, *chronic pain*
Cathy Burkdoll's friend, Jeannette
Holly Burns' parents, Rev. Dick and
Lee Glatfelter, *health challenges*
Liz Cameron, *in chemotherapy*
Pastor Art's friend, Gretchen
Ravenscroft, *dealing with auto-immune*
deficiency and viral infections
Pastor Art's friend, Reverend Dr. Cleo
Malone, *diagnosed with terminal cancer*
Bob and Charlotte Cunz
Charlotte Cunz's 1st cousin, Ralph, *in*
hospice with terminal heart problems
Pastor Art and friends and family of
Rev. Glenn Allison, *who passed away*
Beryl Crist
Jeanette Guluzian's daughter-in-law,
Kimberly, *healing from surgery*
KD Henderson's son's girlfriend,
Jenna, *hospitalized*

Rev. Marcia Hoffman's mother,
Willette Foster, *healing -broken shoulder*
Ken Hughes, & his caregiver, David
Susan Jakubowski Weiner's brother,
Ron, *heart health issues*
Cathy Kotowski's dad, John,
recovering from surgery
Virginia Lashley, *healing, back pain*
Andrew Martinez's friend, Promise
McIntyre, *in Peace Corps*
Grace McCallister
Michelle Naylor's grandfather,
recovering from heart attack
Bea and Quent Neufeld, *Quent dealing*
with Huntington's disease
Vivi Oldknow's friend, Judy Vickers
Vivi Oldknow's friend, Diane Stockl's
father, *in hospital*
Vivi Oldknow's art students, *Health*
and family issues
Our Preschool teachers' well-being
Curtis Rhodes' friend, Brad,
Raj Samuel's nephew, Pradeep
Raj Samuel's friend, Uma, *suffering*
from brain cancer

Donald Shenk's dad, Michael,
diagnosed with lymphoma
Elsie Stanley's friends, Harry & Nancy
Hardege, *Harry has heart blockage*
April Stimes, *Lupus*
Pam Stump, *continued good health*

Kim Van Horsen's parents, Charlie
and Gayle McGrew, *stamina during*
stroke recovery
Susan Jakubowski Weiner's family
Al and Margaret Williams, *Al in and*
out of hospital
Caroline Zook

for THOSE WITH WHOM WE ARE IN COVENANT IN MINISTRY:

Revs. Gene Boutillier (Mentone UCC); David Harder (Kaiser Permanente Hospice); and
Jeff Utter (Bixby Knolls DOC); Pilgrim Pines Camp; Kit Ripley, missionary in Thailand

We are also mindful of...

the men and women deployed to various theatres of war. We pray for their safety. We pray for
the children and elders, families and individuals who are trapped in war-torn regions of the world.
And we pray for national and governmental leaders who make decisions that affect numerous
lives. We ask God's mercy as we pray for wisdom and divine guidance.

Let us continue to pray with and for one another. Let us pray for our congregation and the many
programs that take place on our campus. We thank God for every opportunity to stand up and
speak out for justice and peace.

Attendance Last Sunday: 56 Adults, 7 children

Are you.....

Thinking about discipleship?

Becoming a member of the United Church of Christ?

Joining San Marino Congregational UCC?

Did you know.....

Harvard, first college in the United States, was founded by Congregationalists?

The *Amistad* story is based on Congregationalists who defended slaves?

The United Church of Christ extends an extravagant welcome to everyone?

Do you want to know more?

Why not talk to Pastor Art Cribbs, Holly Burns or Tanya Samuel, Co-Chairs of
the Deacons Board? It's a fun, easy, and fast way to learn about San Marino
Congregational UCC and the United Church of Christ.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH



People with mental problems are our neighbors. They are members of our congregations, members of our families; they are everywhere in this country. If we ignore their cries for help, we will be continuing to participate in the anguish from which those cries for help come. A problem of this magnitude will not go away. Because it will not go away, and because of our spiritual commitments, we are compelled to take action.
(Rosalynn Carter)

DID YOU KNOW...

The magnitude of mental illness in this country is staggering. According to the Surgeon General, one in every five Americans experiences a mental disorder in any given year and half of all Americans have such disorders at some time in their lives. These illnesses of the brain affect all of us, regardless of age, gender, economic status or ethnicity.

Mental illness affects the mind, body and the spirit. It is a real, common and treatable illness. Mental illnesses are far more common than cancer, diabetes, heart disease or arthritis.

Our faith communities can be an important part of the recovery process through education, support and by helping individuals and families feel part of a caring community.

MAY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Community events will highlight mental health issues affecting children, adolescents, adults and older adults.

Watch for events in your community and use these national sites to find information about specific illnesses such as depression and anxiety disorder.

- Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) www.DBSAAlliance.org
- National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) www.NAMI.org
- Mental Health America - www.nmha.org
- SAMHSA - www.stopstigma.samhsa.gov

For resources to help erase the stigma of mental illness in our faith communities, visit the Mental Health Ministries website at

www.MentalHealthMinistries.net

The Integrity of God's Creation

One reason we pay so little close attention to the separate natural world around us is that it has always been there and we presumed it always would. As it disappears, its primal importance will be clear—in the same way that some people think they have put their parents out of their lives and learn differently only when the day comes to bury them.

— Bill McKibben

Science and religion have often been at odds. But today we must forge a new alliance of these former adversaries around the urgent issue of global warming.

Scientists can measure the destructive effect of human behavior on climate—as they have repeatedly done in recent years. But science cannot motivate people to change their harmful ways. It takes a passionate faith to move people in new directions—and only religion can provide that.

The idea that taking care of the environment is a religious duty is hardly new. In the beginning, according to the Book of Genesis, God placed humanity in charge of creation. But, by and large, God's people have not been good stewards of God's creation.

While most of us were indifferent to the growing environmental crisis, a few among us preached a new stewardship of creation. Now some in government seem to have heard them.

It is up to us as people of faith to provide that support. Let us pledge our assistance to the leaders in religion and science who are calling for public policies to reduce climate change while there is still time to make a significant difference, and our encouragement to the lawmakers who are working to make global stewardship the law of the land.

God is still speaking,

CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator..... Connie James-Gililand
 Vice Moderator..... Kimberly Van Horsen
 Treasurer..... Scott Cameron
 Clerk..... Charlotte Cunz
 Financial Secretary..... Dick Lashley
 Historian Virginia Lashley
 Christian Ed. (Chair)..... Kim Van Horsen
 Deacons (Co-Chairs)..... Holly Burns & Tanya Samuel
 Trustee (Chair)David Crist

STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr.
 Pastoral Assistant, Office/Facility Management
 and Director of Music and Theatre Donald B. Shenk
 Preschool Director..... Connie James-Gililand
 Accompanist.....Chip Colvin
 Choral Section Leaders
 Gabrielle DeMers (Sop) Sarah Parnicky (Sop)
 Guylaine Bouchard (Alt) Andrew Martinez (Ten)
 Dylan Gentile (Bass)
 Director of Christian Education..... Rev. Cathy Kotowski
 Childcare Provider..... Barbara Sanchez
 Ceremony CoordinatorDonald Shenk
 Sound Technician Eric Stimes
 Usher Coordinator John Stanley
 Webperson..... Holly Ann Burns
 Conference Ministers Revs. Jane Heckles & Daniel Romero

Our Mission Statement

“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.”