

SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2560 HUNTINGTON DRIVE SAN MARINO, CA 91108
Phone: (626) 292-2080 Facsimile: (626) 292-2083
Email: smccucc@sanmarinoucc.org Website: www.sanmarinoucc.org

WE WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen

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

Congregation, please join in on the refrain:

**Rain down, rain down,
Rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down,
Rain down your love, God of life.**

***OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

Lalitha Samuel

Great Spirit, your people are here to worship you. We come from another week of toil and service. We have come to bow before you and give you praise. Ready our hearts and minds to hear your Word. Prepare our souls to face your world. Come, O God, and fill this place with your Holy Spirit. We did not enter this sacred space to leave your world outside. Help us now to remember your people in various places, including those who are oppressed and suffer; those whose spirits are broken and hearts are crushed. We have come to lift up your Name and receive the gifts of courage and new life. It is your love for us and for all humanity that draws us nearer to you. We come humbly because we have not been as good as we could be. We come to offer our apology and to seek your mercy. Hear us. Receive us. Breathe on us. Hallelujah. Salaam. Shalom. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”**

Congregation

NCH #495

Zundel/Huber

The congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

Story “God’s great surprise: children leaders” Pastor Art Cribbs



**“Never place a period
Where God has placed a comma”**
[Gracie Allen]
God is still speaking,

May 20, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. Seventh Sunday of Easter
INSTALLATION SUNDAY

For Reflection

“When theological discourse overlooks the oppressed
And the hope given by Jesus Christ in their struggle,
It inevitably becomes ‘abstract’ talk, geared to the
Ideological justification of the status quo.”
(from God of the Oppressed by James Cone)

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

PIANO PRELUDE

Chip Colvin

WELCOME & OUR COMMON LIFE

Lalitha Samuel

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.
Kim Van Horsen is today's storyteller.
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 16:16-34

Lalitha Samuel

New Revised Standard Version

Pew Bible pages 170-171

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Breastplate"

Chancel Choir

Text ascribed to St. Patrick, Music by Liam Lawton, Arranged by Paul A. Tate
Violinist: Laurie Niles

REFLECTIONS

"Unexpected Ministry"

Pastor Cribbs

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS, OUR LIVES

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Call for the Offering

Lalitha Samuel

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)

Lalitha Samuel

O God, we bring ourselves and our gifts to your table. Thank you for all you have done and given to us. Your Son, Jesus, is such a wonderful Savior and model of life. Thank you for giving him to us. Help us to follow his ways and obey his commandments. As we dedicate our lives to you, grant unto us a spirit of bold courage and radical love. As you have given so freely from your bounty, let us be generous in returning a portion of your gifts back to you. Receive each of us and our gifts. 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

"Take My Gifts"

NCH #562

Congregation – English verses 1-3

Gibson/Murray

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Cribbs

*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT

Lalitha Samuel

*PIANO POSTLUDE

Chip Colvin

Everyone is welcome to enjoy food, beverages and conversation in Crist Hall following the service. Refreshments are provided today by Vivi Oldknow.

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!



All around us people are suffering. There are those who know the pain of loneliness and abandonment. They suffer. Some live with alcoholics who are abusive and disrespectful of themselves and others when they are drunk. They suffer. Children have little control over circumstances that dictate where and how they spend their time. They suffer.

At a distance, there are reports about bombs exploding in marketplaces killing scores of innocent people. They leave loved ones and friends who suffer. Nearly 40-thousand children died from malnutrition and starvation in the past 24 hours. They and others suffer. Suffering is no stranger throughout the world and across generations.

What is most remarkable is the extent to which many of us go to avoid or deny the reality of suffering. We bathe ourselves in the pool of illusion in a vain attempt to pretend we are unaffected by suffering. Consider the policy of the current administration to remove and eliminate all photographs and imagery of dead soldiers and coffins from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Think about how we receive sanitized, official stories regarding the destruction caused by those wars. Names are not given, injuries are not described, and deaths are not recorded or counted among the civilians and militant resisters within those countries.

One might think if we don't know what is going on and don't have the details about the resulting tragedies, then we are not responsible. We are removed from having to care and feel about the consequences. The same is nearly true about disasters that leave cities devastated and human beings forever scarred. Etched deeply within their souls is a profound sense of life that doesn't matter beyond them. Where is God? Does anybody know their condition? Who will rescue them?

When the unnamed girl with the power of divination followed Paul and Silas around town day after day announcing to the crowds, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation," Paul suffered. She annoyed him to the point of vexation. He called out the spirit that possessed her and left her powerless. Paul sought to relieve the agony he suffered each time he heard her voice. Unfortunately, it was not her condition of involuntary servitude or slavery that caused him pain. It was her constant cry and proclamation that tormented him. (Acts 16:16-35)

What will it take for us to act against the powers of oppression? When will we have had enough and are forced to do something? Too often, it is not until we are directly affected by events that we get involved.

We are reminded of the familiar quotation by the Reverend Martin Neimoller about waiting and tolerating evil, "First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me."

Pastor Neimoller spent eight years in Nazi prisons because he spoke out. His life was forever changed, including his previous anti-Semitic position and pronouncements before his imprisonment. Like Paul, he had a conversion experience that defined his relationship with God and humanity. He suffered.

Today, more is required of us in the face of a suffering world. To follow Jesus means we must "take up our cross." We, too, must suffer. We are called to speak up for those whose voices are silenced and realities are shaded from sight.

People in our homes, communities, across the nation and around the world are praying, yea, they are screaming, hoping we will know them and do something to make a positive difference. What will you do? What will it take? Perhaps you have been called to an unexpected ministry.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

This Week...

TODAY: Installation Service at 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 6:45pm – Church Council meets in Fireside Room
 There will be no Bible Study tonight.
Thursday: Choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
Friday: 11:00 Preschool International Day
 7:30pm The Spirit and the Screen Film Club presents,
 “Stranger than Fiction” with Will Ferrell (Rated PG-13)
 Pizza, popcorn, pop provided. Please bring a salad or snack to share.

Looking Ahead...

Weds., May 30 6:45pm – The Stillspeaking Theatre Advisory Board meets

We need YOU to sign up to donate flowers for our altar and/or to provide treats for our Social Time after the Sunday services. Please consider adding your name to the lists in Crist Hall.



Next Sunday * May 27, 2007

PENTECOST SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon: “Spirited Voices”: - Text: Acts 2:1-21

Liturgist: Guylaine Bouchard

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, accepted into Claremont’s Doctoral program
Pastor Art and Family, making transition from San Diego to San Marino
Pastor Art’s friend, Patt Allison, dealing with loss of husband, Glenn

Family of Charlotte Cunz’s cousin, Ralph, who passed away
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
Beryl Crist, healing after hospital stay
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
Virginia Lashley, healing
Andrew Martinez’s friend, Promise McIntyre, in Peace Corps

Grace McCallister
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
Donald Shenk’s friend Greg’s dad, Roy D. Baldwin, praying to be accepted in program for eradicating liver cancer
Donald Shenk’s friend Robin’s mom, diagnosed with tumor
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
Caroline Zook

for those with whom we are in covenant in ministry:

Revs. Gene Boutilier (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: 49 Adults, 6 children

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.

Unexpected Ministry

The United Church of Christ is growing...growing new leaders, growing new congregations, growing new visions. From UCC events for youth and young adults, these new leaders speak in *DayBook for New Voices: A Calendar of Reflections and Prayers by and for Youth*, by Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi (The Pilgrim Press, 2004, used by permission.)

Dear God,

We thank you for the wonderful time we’ve had this week and for bringing us together under you, just as you brought together the people at Pentecost. Help us to keep our faith even when people make fun of us, and help us to do what we think is right. And help us to keep the friendships that we’ve made this week. Amen.

Kristin Zukowski and camp friends from Oceanwood, Maine



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.”