

SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2560 HUNTINGTON DRIVE
SAN MARINO, CA 91108
(626) 292-2080 www.sanmarinoucc.org



“Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”

May 30, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.

For Reflection

“Now is the time for thinkers to think.”

(Maga Angelou)

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 today's service of worship.

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

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Music by Albert Mendoza & Murray Middleman

WELCOME

Pastor Art Cribbs

*MUSIC FOR THE SPIRIT

“Rain Down” and “Let Justice Roll Like a River”

The United Voices

*OPENING PRAYER

Jacqueline Benton & Sue Cook

LITURGIST: Great and loving God, you are merciful and magnificent. Wonderful is your name.

PEOPLE: **We magnify your name.**

LITURGIST: We come before you humbly to seek your mercy and offer ourselves to you.

PEOPLE: **We worship you, O God.**

LITURGIST: Thank you for awakening us to this new day, a day we have never seen before.

PEOPLE: **We praise you, O God.**

LITURGIST: Life is sacred as all things are made by you. You created us in your image.

PEOPLE: **We honor you, O God.**

LITURGIST: The Earth is yours and everything that dwells on it. You trust us with your Creation.

PEOPLE: **We bow before you, O God.**

LITURGIST: We remember your people in places near and far away; now and in the past; all who followed Your Way and submitted themselves to you.

PEOPLE: **We are your people. You are our God.**

LITURGIST: Teach us how to be more caring, more compassionate, more loving, and more peaceful.

PEOPLE: **We serve you, O God.**

ALL: In this time of worship, we turn our attention to you as we listen for your still-speaking voice. Fill us now, O God, with your Holy Spirit. Come and be with us. Hallelujah. Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

*A SONG FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (#277)

Congregation

The Congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

“What are You Doing?”

Pastor Cribbs

OUR COMMON PRAYER

Congregation

MUSIC TO BLESS THE CHILDREN

“Children Welcome”

Congregation

*At this 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. Afterwards everyone **will be brought up to the social time.***

SCRIPTURE READING	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Jacqueline Benton & Sue Cook
SONG OF PREPARATION	<i>“Wisdom, Come Softly”</i> By Martin Barry and Diane Murden	The United Voices
REFLECTIONS	<i>“Wisdom Calls”</i>	The Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs
SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”</i> (#276)	Congregation
A TIME TO GIVE		Jacqueline Benton & Sue Cook
A TIME TO ACT		Donald Shenk
A TIME TO DEDICATE OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS		Jacqueline Benton & Sue Cook
Loving Creator, we thank you for this offering brought by your people. We share our talents, time, and money in service to humanity. Thank you for your many blessings. Receive this offering for your mission through this congregation and the United Church of Christ. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you. Amen.		
A TIME FOR PRAYER	<i>“Come Bring Your Burdens to God”</i>	Prayer time led by Pastor Art
SENDING MUSIC	<i>“Praise with Joy the World's Creator”</i> (#273)	Congregation
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Art
*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT		Jacqueline Benton & Sue Cook
*GOING FORTH		Albert Mendoza & Murray Middleman

Everyone is welcome next door for Social Time.

We express a warm welcome to all who are here today!

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 (with name-tag so we can greet you by name) and receive information about everything happening here.



This week we honor those brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country. We remember their names and commemorate their dedication to protect the ideals, values, and causes on which this nation stands. How do we demonstrate our respect for them?

Memorial Day was established to remind us of life's fragility and temporal reality. We are given only a few years to accomplish our God-designed purpose on Earth. We face difficulties, disappointments, triumph, and celebrations. This is a time to pause and reflect on the higher meaning of life and death.

Conceived during the bloody, deadly battles of the Civil War, people in several cities around the country took time to remember soldiers who died and were buried in mass graves. The earliest known ceremony took place on May 1, 1865, in Charleston, South Carolina. An estimated ten thousand people, mostly Black former slaves, conducted a funeral proces-

sion for the fallen warriors. Their actions launched a movement that commemorated Decoration Day which was repeated in Waterloo, New York, the following year. Eventually Decoration Day was changed to Memorial Day. In 1967, Memorial Day was officially named, and declared a federal holiday by the United States Congress a year later.

As we remember our war dead, we have an opportunity to think seriously about the sanctity of human life. Who is paying attention to the signs of the times?

Natural disasters and man-made catastrophes like the current oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico turn our attention to common concerns that bind people together. This is a time that requires more cooperative human relations to forge a resolution to the great challenges we confront.

Although Memorial Day focuses on lost of life caused by conflict, we also concentrate on the many ways we can work together to improve the quality of life all over the world. Recent events are evidence of this need for nations to form international forces to bring aid and relief to areas directly affected by disaster. It is happening and people are providing generous contributions to make it possible to assist victims.

Paying attention to the signs of the times allows us to witness the heroic activities that bring healing to places plagued by war and poverty. It is the work and commitment by men and women who dedicate their lives to make a positive difference and bring about productive changes that give all of us reason to believe hope is alive.

While bad things like war continue to happen, we cannot ignore the wonderful acts of goodness taking place in our midst. These are the signs of the times. Instead of surrendering to fabricated fear, anger, and malice that lead to division and war, there are people who courageously stand on dangerous ground to plant seeds of peace that produce life-enhancing enterprises.

As we remember those who fought and died for liberties, we must also hold up and honor those brave men and women who continue to make sacrifices so the value of life is fully realized. This Memorial Day gives us reason to view the larger picture in which the best of human behavior is celebrated. We are grateful for our brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We also appreciate everyone who gives his and her life to elevate our consciousness about God's original intention for human beings to live in community. For all of their sacrifices, we say, "Thank you." That helps to give great meaning to this year's Memorial Day.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

What's Happening...

Please pick up your copy of the SPIRE today (if you have elected to receive a hard copy).

TODAY: All God's Family CHOIR will rehearse immediately following worship today. StillSpeaking Theatre Directors meet today after the social time.

TUES: 7pm - SOUL FOOD BIBLE STUDY in the Green Room.

WEDS: 6:45PM - THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES will meet in the Art Room for their regular meeting.

THURS: 7pm - THE UNITED VOICES will rehearse in the sanctuary.

SATURDAY: Church Office closed.

SUNDAY: All God's Family Sunday

San Marino UCC/Annual Gathering Mission Project

Church World Service says: *In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.*

You are encouraged to bring ANY of the following loose items to church between now and next Sunday, June 6th to add to our Hygiene Kit donations. Our delegates and staff will then take the items to the Annual Gathering the following weekend to be presented to Pilgrim Pines where the kits will be assembled.

Remember you can bring these items on one of the next two Sundays or on any day of the week during the church office business hours up through June 6th. All items should be new.



Hand towels measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels); washcloths; wide-tooth combs; nail clippers; bars of soap (bath size in wrapper); toothbrushes (in original packaging); standard size Band-Aids®.

From the UCC Calendar of Prayer: Wisdom Calls

There is a young man named Jeff Galasyn who lives in a small town at the southern tip of Maine. Jeff has made multiple disaster recovery mission trips to New Orleans (the first one because his mother – a member of Southern Maine's United Church of Christ ~ sort of pushed him into it, he says) and was interviewed by Times-Picayune columnist Chris Rose during his third visit. What could a 17-year old high-school student have to say to a journalist that would inspire him to write a column? Plenty....and plenty filled with wisdom. Here are some excerpts: "People always say thank you to us for helping them. But I think we should be saying thank you to them – to you all – for not being mad at us, when nobody came right after Katrina. I just feel that when everybody says 'thank you,' that it's actually us who are in their debt. That's why I'm here. That's why I want to keep coming back, because I feel like you guys were abandoned, and I'm trying to do my part to help you guys get back your city." And then there's this: "I've learned a lot of life lessons down here. I respect people a lot more than I used to. I listen to my teachers a lot more; what they say, and I just grasp everything I can. It's really had a huge impact on me. I've definitely learned that life doesn't revolve around myself." Finally, Jeff relayed one more piece of wisdom to Chris Rose, "There's one more thing I want to tell you. One of the workers here said this to me and it made a lot of sense: Demolishing these houses is saying goodbye to the old but also saying hello to the new. I thought that was really cool. It means the demolishing is New Orleans' past and we're moving toward the future and getting these homes ready for people to live in again. I thought that was a good explanation for the things that are happening here." Chris Rose says he feels like he got a life lesson from a kid who got a life lesson and he knows "that we must never forget, never stop helping, never stop thanking and never surrender."