

SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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## WE WORSHIP GOD

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Acolyte: Allen King

“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)

Kim and Faith Van Horsen

Good morning, God. We are with our children today to give you praise and to honor them being in our lives. We are here to express appreciation and gratitude to the teachers, staff, and volunteers who give of themselves to help our children grow and learn. Today, O God, is special to us. Just as we love our children, we know that you love all of us even more. So, we are here in your sanctuary together to worship you. Let your light shine on us and fill us with your Spirit. Thank you, O God, for the glorious gift of life and love. Amen.

*The congregation may be seated.*

### OPENING MUSIC

Preschool Children

“The World is A Rainbow” by Greg Scelsa

“We All Sing with the Same Voice” by J. Philip Miller and Sheppard M. Greene

### TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

Story

“It’s Great to be a Child”

Pastor Art Cribbs

Our Director Shares

Our Parents Share



“Never place a period  
Where God has placed a comma”

[Gracie Allen]

God is still speaking,

June 10, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY

### *For Reflection*



“Believe me, if you’ve been  
shut up for a year and a half,

It can get to be too much for you sometimes.

But feelings can’t be ignored, no matter how unjust

Or ungrateful they seem. I long to ride a bike,

Dance, whistle, look at the world, feel young

And know that I’m free, and yet I can’t let it show.

Just imagine what would happen if all eight of us were

To feel sorry for ourselves or walk around with the

Discontent clearly visible on our faces.

Where would that get us?”

(December 24, 1943 – Anne Frank)

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

Kim and Faith Van Horsen

Our Children Share

We Recognize Our Teachers

We Recognize Our Director

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.**

*At this point in the service, all children are invited to sit with their parents. Childcare is available for the youngest among us.*

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.  
All are welcome in the name of Jesus.  
All are 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**      Mark 10:13-16      Kim and Faith Van Horsen  
New Revised Standard Version      Greek Testament      Pew Bible pages 56-57

**CHORAL ANTHEM** *“Hamba nathi (Come Walk With Us)”*      Chancel Choir  
A South African traditional song, arranged by Anders Nyberg

**WORSHIP & WONDER**      **“The Mustard Seed”**      Rev. Cathy Kotowski

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS, OUR LIVES**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Call for the Offering      Kim and Faith Van Horsen

Choral Offertory      **“Open My Ears, Open My Eyes”**      Chancel Choir  
Text and Music by James E. Clemens

\*Congregational Response      **NCH #780**  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;      Bourgeois/Ken  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*Dedication of Ourselves and Our Gifts (unison)      Kim and Faith Van Horsen  
**Thank you, O Lord, for this wonderful moment to give ourselves and our offerings to you. We are grateful for this opportunity to express our joy for all you have done. We bring back to you what you have allowed us to share. The Earth belongs to you and everything there is. Receive these gifts. Receive us as your people. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to you, O God. 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      **“God Made from One Blood”**      **NCH #427**  
Congregation      Cysegr/Troeger

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Cribbs

**\*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT**

Kim and Faith Van Horsen

**\*PIANO POSTLUDE**

Chip Colvin

***Everyone is welcome to enjoy food, beverages  
and conversation in Crist Hall following the service.  
Thanks to Charlotte Cunz for providing our treats today.***

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!



The truth of the matter is we are children for a very brief moment and then we rush into the passage that leads to adulthood. It happens too soon, not to be recovered. Unfortunately, many of us don't realize how precious childhood is until we are way past its gentle grip. In fact, too many children lose their innocence much too early. They are forced into the arena of responsibility before they are able to enjoy days of playful wonder. It is a cruel twist of fate and human error that robs them of fleeting years of childish frolic.

I get great pleasure out of driving my daughter Mika to school. It is our special time together. She is quiet while I impart "fatherly" wisdom. It may be she is tuning out the drone of daddy's voice, but usually she patiently allows me to go on. One day we talked about childhood. Although she has entered the teen zone, I encouraged her not to waste these waning years of her youth. "Don't do anything that will deprive you of your last years of childhood," I warned her. "You will be an adult much longer than these too few years of being a kid. Think and don't do anything that will have permanent consequences."

This year my classmates are celebrating our 40th high school reunion. What happened to the time? It seems not so long ago we were running up and down the football field, sitting in history and science classes, and taking the long way to get home. We were laughing and fretting about finals. We were signing yearbooks and wishing each other farewell. Those days are gone, not to return. Graduation signaled the end of childhood. We went our separate ways: some to war; others to college; most to our first jobs. Memories now fade into vague shadows and darkened flashes. Our childhood is no more.

Setting aside a day dedicated to little children who have not begun their formal education careers is quite remarkable. This is our moment to express true appreciation to the director, teachers, staff, and volunteers who spend their weekdays in the lives of our children. We are grateful to the parents who entrust their most precious treasures into our hands. And we are glad to have the children here with us.

Every time someone tells me how important our pre-school has been to a child, I feel a warm sensation of responsibility and dignity. Early childhood education is the foundation on which their learning skills are built. Learning how to be a person in community with other people begins on our campus. Dedication to the well being of children is a great gift and necessary if we are to achieve our potential as a society. Our future depends on them.

Today, we say, "Thank you!" to everyone who is a teacher, counselor, administrator, janitor, aide, and volunteer in our pre-school program. Thank you for giving yourselves to the development of our children. Also, "Thank you," parents, who bring your children here everyday and give us the privilege of learning how to be more human by working closely with the innocent ones.

Perhaps, there is a way to recapture a bit of our childhood. Maybe it happens whenever we spend a moment playing, laughing, and being with children.

*-Pastor Art Cribbs*

**Next Sunday \* June 17, 2007**  
**ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY**  
**10:00 a.m. Morning Worship**  
**Sermon: "Radical Hospitality": - Text: Luke 7:36 - 8:3**  
Liturgist: Bret Naylor