

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,

July 1, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

For Reflection

“If you want to say that I was a drum major,
Say that I was a drum major for justice;
Say that I was a drum major for righteousness.
And all of the other shallow things will not matter.
I won't have any money to leave behind.
I won't have the fine and luxurious
things of life to leave behind.
But I just want to leave a committed life behind.”
(“Drum Major Instinct” - Martin Luther King, Jr., February 4, 1968)

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

Susan Jakubowski Weiner

WE WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Susan Jakubowski Weiner

Holy Spirit, gift of God, we are here to worship our Creator. In God's image we have been made. With God's breath we have been given life. We praise you, O Lord; for all that you are and do. Thank you for this new day in which we witness your presence. You remind us of your love. You touch us with your healing hand. How can we say, “Thank you” for all your magnificent ways? You know our hearts. You regulate our minds. We bow humbly before you. O God, have mercy on us. We have sinned against you and humanity. Forgive us our sins. Renew us and set us on your right path. Here us as we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“This Is My Song”
Congregation

NCH #591
Sibelius/Stone

The congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

Story

“I Love to Tell the Story”

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.
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 and CELEBRATE COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Susan Jakubowski Weiner
New Testament *New Revised Standard Version* Pew Bible p. xxx

SUMMERSONG Soloist: Emma Korvin

REFLECTIONS “Take Up the Story” Pastor Cribbs



COMMUNION HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together” NCH #330
Africa American Spiritual

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 Soloist: Emma Korvin

**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 Susan Jakubowski Weiner

Offertory/Music for Meditation Chip Colvin

*Congregational Response NCH #780
Bourgeois/Ken

**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.**

*Dedication of Ourselves and Our Gifts (unison) Susan Jakubowski Weiner

**Receive these gifts, Oh Lord. We give back what is yours. Bless the
ministries for which this offering is intended. May this money be used
for the uplift of your people in many places, and may those who serve
you be inspired to do your will. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to
you. Thank you for all we have received and now return to you.
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** “*We Shall Overcome*” **NCH #570**
Congregation United States traditional

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Cribbs

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

***ORGAN POSTLUDE** Dr. Barbara Artinian

***Everyone is welcome to enjoy food, beverages
and conversation in Crist Hall following the service.***

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!

This Week...

Monday: Central Association meets here (Pastor Art is Vice Moderator and Susan Jakubowski Weiner is a Member at Large)
Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY in the Fireside Room
Thursday: Donald returns to the Church Office – regular hours resume



There are a lot of bad leaders running nations and corporations. As a result, the world is suffering. Many of us don't want to think about it. We would rather not talk about it. Still many more just settle for the way things are without any consideration given to making changes. Bad leadership makes for disaster. These are dangerous days even if we don't realize it.

It is easy to point away from ourselves and accuse others of making mistakes. Recently, three nations were labeled “the axis of evil,” and Iran, Iraq, and North Korea were tossed into a pool of untouchable societies. Within months after President George W. Bush issued those assignments, the United States rushed into war against Iraq. North Korea fortified its defenses and escalated its development of nuclear weapons with a threat to use them. Iran announced it was stepping up its nuclear program and began to spew insulting remarks against Israel and America.

Flawed leadership creates an environment of fear and self-deception. It fosters harm and ignores wise counsel. That is what the world is facing today. From politics to Hollywood; from halls of justice to sacred sites of sanctuaries: mosques, temples, cathedrals, churches and shrines, the impact of bad leadership is felt deeply.

It is not a matter of incompetence, rather an inability to listen, see, or feel the living realities of people who suffer. Bad leadership dismisses or trivializes the harsh conditions under which too many people exist. The absence of compassion and sensitivity toward the poor and vulnerable results in callous treatment and perpetuates denied hope and opportunities.

There is no escape from the reach and influence of bad judgment in positions of authority. We are in the midst of crime, corruption, and barbaric acts against humanity for reasons that only verify the unfortunate fact of failed leadership. Instead of negotiating and seeking diplomatic alternatives, we are beset with an administration in this nation that bullies and employs weapons of mass destruction against those who disagree with its policies.

What are we to do? How can people of faith act responsibly?

First, we must realize what is taking place and determine where we will stand. We must make an honest and prayerful assessment of our capacity to provide a voice and perspective that is aligned with God's intention for us. We must take seriously Jesus' teachings and apply his ministry to our lives. Then, we must place ourselves where we can listen attentively to those persons most directly affected by decisions, policies, and activities done in our name.

How can we tell if leadership is good or bad? Take a close look at the historical personalities who made significant contributions to advance human history in a way that was consistent with God's Commandments. Compare the outcomes of behaviors that healed, improved, and respected life against actions that destroyed, weakened, and discarded cultures.

The prophets Elijah and Elisha faced these problems just as we live with remarkably bad situations now. They provide a good place to begin our process of comparing and deciding what we will do. We can and we must do something. We are able to do better. The world is crying for good leadership.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

Next Sunday * July 8, 2007

Sermon: "Unexpected Prophets" Text: 2 Kings 5: 1-14

Liturgist: Rev. Cathy Kotowski

Deacons will meet after the social time.

Looking Ahead...

Monday, July 16: 6:45pm - Trustees meet in Pastor's Office

Friday, July 20: 7:00pm – The Spirit & The Screen presents, “Normal”

**Weds., July 25: 6:45pm – Church Council meets in the Green Room
NOTE: COUNCIL IS ON A WEDNESDAY THIS MONTH!**