

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 29, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Please stop by the Sound Booth if you wish to use a sound receiver today.

For Reflection

“Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
And if I die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.”
(“A Child’s Bedtime Prayer”, 1784 –
The New England Primer)



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

WE GATHER

PIANO PRELUDE

Chip Colvin
You are invited to read “Cribbs Notes on the Pastor’s Message”
beginning on page 5 during this time.

WELCOME & OUR COMMON LIFE

Dave Van Horsen

WE WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Soloist: Guylaine Bouchard
Acolyte: Faith Van Horsen

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Dave Van Horsen

Loving and amazing God, you are beyond our imagination and understanding. You are more wonderful than our mere words. We come to celebrate life as you have given throughout the ages. We are here to praise you and you alone. There is no other god but you. You know our hearts and regulate our minds. Fix our attention only on you. Speak a word to your people. Come, meet us in this place. Move us. Mold us. Use us. O God, we worship you. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“We Love Your Realm, O God”
Congregation – Verses 1-4

NCH #312
Dwight/Bayler

The congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

Story “When and How Do You Pray?” 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.

All children are invited to process to their summer session at this time.

Music to Bless the Children

“Jesus Loves the Little Children”
Woolston/Root

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red, brown, yellow, black, and white, They are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

Call for the Offering

Dave Van Horsen

Offertory

Chip Colvin

*Congregational Response

NCH #780
Ken/Bourgeois

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen**

*Dedication of Ourselves and Our Gifts (unison)

Dave Van Horsen

Bless now these gifts we have brought before you. We give ourselves and our finances to enable the ministries of this congregation and the United Church of Christ. We dedicate our lives, our talents, and our offering to your mission of service. Give us courage in the struggle for justice and peace. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

WE EXPERIENCE THE WORD

SUMMERSONG

Soloist: Guylaine Bouchard

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 11:1-13

Dave Van Horsen

New Revised Standard Version

Pew Bible pages 87-88

REFLECTIONS

“Prayerful Disciples”

Pastor Cribbs



WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

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**

“Renew Your Church”
Congregation – Verses 1 and 4

NCH #311
Cober

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Cribbs

***POSTLUDE/CHANGING OF THE LIGHT**

Chip Colvin/Dave Van Horsen

Everyone is welcome to enjoy food, beverages and conversation in Crist Hall following the service. Thanks to Holly Burns for providing our refreshments 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!

Next Sunday * August 5, 2007
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Sermon: “Loving God Back” Text: Luke 12:13-21
Liturgist: Holly Burns Summerson soloist: Andrew Martinez

CRIBBS NOTES

on the Pastor's Message



A group of us stood on the steps of the Federal Building in San Diego and prayed our various prayers. We came together as Christians (Protestants, Catholics, and Mormons); Jews (Conservative and Reformed), Sikhs, Muslims, Buddhists, Baha'i, Scientologists, and individuals with loose religious affiliations. We came speaking in English, Hebrew, Arabic, Spanish, and Japanese. Some of us resided in urban areas, others lived in suburbs, and a few were from rural communities. We were rich, modest, and poor. White people with Black folk; Mexicans with Nicaraguans; Islanders with Mainlanders; Asians and Europeans all gathered together. There we formed a circle and we prayed. Each of us prayed out of our own tradition and in our first language. We stood in the Public Square and we prayed aloud.

Immediately, as the voices began to rise, we listened to the prayers of each other. We spoke our words in conversation with God. We prayed and we listened. Then, we discovered the wondrous glee of public liturgy. As each person said the words that formed a human-divine connection, we realized all of us had the same prayer.

The prayer of the Sikh was the prayer of the Baptist. The prayer of the Mormon was the prayer of the Buddhist. The prayer of the Muslim was the prayer of the Jew. The prayers of others were the prayers of us all.

I believe in the power of prayer. It makes the difference we may not have expected, and definitely could not achieve void of its utterance.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, a singular invocation went up across the United States. It slipped through the lips of baseball fans in crowded stadiums and appeared on bumper stickers of tractors, tow trucks and automobiles. "God bless America," became a chant and mantra in hovels and mansions. It became a refrain for every occasion. The prayer that swept the nation by storm took on political overtones as it expressed a desire for divine intervention exclusively reserved for us.

Those three words increasingly troubled my soul. They provoked a sense of narrow arrogance that dismissed the broader scope of suffering around the world. We who had more than most people and who believed this government is the greatest in the world, dared to pray for God to act and give us even more. More than being disturbed by such a dangerous incantation, I worried how God might respond.

"Be careful what you pray for," my parents often warned us as children, "because you just might get it."

Praying is an act that ties us to God and people of faith in every land throughout all times. It is a precious gift that erases distinctions and bridges divisions. As we pray, cosmic events are set into motion. Changes occur. We are transformed.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray with intimate expressions to God. He instructed them to recognize God as their Divine Parent. He told them to pray for the whole people of God and not just for themselves. Prayer is an act of faith. It propels us into a dimension without measure. The Apostle Paul encourages us "to pray without ceasing; in season and out."

In times like these we need to pray. We need to make time to pray together. Instead of fretting about the absence of prayer in schools, we would do well to institutionalize prayer in our homes, Bible study, and every time we gather. And, yes, each of us is given voice and authority to pray publicly or privately.

When we pray, it is helpful to confess our failings, offer forgiveness to others, and seek God's mercy. That would expose the three words so prominent in American life for what they really are: a human provocation that tempts the wrath of God.

-Pastor Art Cribbs

This Week...

Today: 11:30am Pastoral Relations Team meets in Pastor's Office

Tuesday: 7:00pm Come join our new group – SOUL FOOD. We'll meet in the Fireside Parlour. This group is about SO much more than "just" Bible study!



A Giving Opportunity:

Latino Church Development Camp: Almost 250 people, most of whom are new to their churches and are still learning who the UCC is, are planning on attending this important camp near the end of August at Pilgrim Pines. Most of these people are relatively low-income folks, so even though the cost of \$70-80 per person is pretty reasonable for 3 days' food & lodging, coming to this camp involves a stretch for most folks, and a substantial portion of the people that have indicated they would like to come simply cannot afford the cost. They live in South Los Angeles and worship at Immanuel Latino Fellowship, or they are from the exciting outreach program to foster families at Nueva Vida in Chula Vista.

We at San Marino Congregational UCC have been asked to partner with our sister congregations, Altadena Community Church UCC, and First Congregational Church Pasadena, UCC to raise as much as possible to help these people attend this important development camp. The funds must be in Altadena by August 10th, so if you can earmark a check today or next Sunday we can take part in this important opportunity. Please write "Latino Conference camperships" on your check or on a pew envelope with your cash.

’ Mission Moment

Church Camps: Building Faith, Transforming Lives

What percentage of Our Church's Wider Mission goes for administration? That's a question often voiced by church members wishing to give responsibly. It can be difficult to answer. Keep reading and you'll see why. Lives can be shaped or changed at church camp. Ask the youth and you'll hear: "I really enjoyed who I was at camp. I was able to be myself." "We had a special sense of community where everyone could feel loved and included." "Camp gave me a safe place to talk about my beliefs and questions, surrounded by others doing the same thing." "Great friendships and great memories." "A place to grow in trusting God and appreciate God's creation." "Music, music, music. Discovering my gifts." "What I experienced just left me in awe. The campfire the last night really

showed me how camp changed people's lives."

Ask youth leaders and you'll hear:

"A week at church camp can have as much impact as a year of Sunday school."
"When you are able to get these kids away, to be themselves and experience God in a whole new way, you can impact their lives."
"Camp focuses on building Christian community. We can learn and practice accepting and supporting others."
"Many will remember camp as one of the most significant faith events in their lives. I do."
Conference camp trustees work creatively to promote camp usage and set registration fees to cover costs—directors and staff, training volunteers, processing registrations, food, equipment, program supplies, insurance, facilities upkeep, and remodeling and additions. Our Church's Wider Mission may supplement fees, paying staff salaries, promoting camp, providing camp scholarships, or balancing the camp budget when needed. Is that administration? Or is it program? If it builds faith and transforms lives, does it matter?



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..... Art Cribbs
- Pastoral Assistant, Office/Facility Management and Director of Music and Theatre..... Donald Shenk
- Preschool Director Connie James-Gililand

Accompanist Chip Colvin
Director of Christian Education Cathy Kotowski
Childcare Provider Barbara Sanchez
Ceremony Coordinator..... Donald Shenk
Sound TechnicianEric Stimes
Usher Coordinator..... John Stanley
Webperson..... Holly Ann Burns
Conference MinistersRevs. Jane Heckles & Daniel Romero

Our Mission: “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.”

We are 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.