

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,

August 26, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

For Reflection

“If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

(Isaiah 58:13-14)

**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

Liz Cameron

WE WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Music by Chip Colvin
Acolyte: Arthur Cribbs

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Liz Cameron

O God, this is the day you have made, we rejoice and are glad in it. You have painted clouds in the sky and blown gentle breezes across the ocean. You refresh life and cause birds to sing their delight. We enter your Sanctuary to give you praise, setting aside all distractions. This is your day and we honor you. We sing songs of praise and lift our voices to you. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit and fill us with your Word. Hallelujah! Shalom! Salaam! Right on! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
Congregation

NCH #28
Kocher/Pierpoint

The congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

Story “What Are You Doing Today?” 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

“This Little Light of Mine”
Congregation

- 1. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
- 2. Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

Call for the Offering

Liz Cameron

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)

Liz Cameron

No matter how much we give, we can never give more than you, O God. No matter what we take, we can never exhaust your bounty. Encourage us to give you our best and the first of our gifts. Inspire us to be generous and cheerful in our giving. Receive what we have brought and bless it for your purpose. We dedicate our lives and our gifts to you, O God. Thank you for being all you are to us. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

WE EXPERIENCE THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING
New Revised Standard Version

Luke 13:10-17

Liz Cameron
Pew Bible pages 92-93

REFLECTIONS

“Out of the Shadows”

Pastor Cribbs

SUMMERSONG

Chip Colvin

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**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”
Congregation

NCH #82
Welsh trad./Vajda

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Cribbs

***POSTLUDE/CHANGING OF THE LIGHT**

Chip Colvin/Liz Cameron

Everyone is welcome to enjoy food, beverages and conversation in Crist Hall following the service. Thanks to Marcia Albrecht 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 * September 2, 2007

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon: "Let's Be the Church" Text: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
The Board of Deacons will meet after the service.



Sometimes you just want to get away. It's like that airline commercial which offers low fares to escape. In those moments, there is no hiding place. You feel trapped, locked in time and space, and nothing seems to protect you. You are exposed, vulnerable, out in the open. To make matters worse, people know you but offer no comfort. You are in a state of complete shame and embarrassment. What do you do? Where do you turn? Now what?

This happens to someone somewhere every day. If it is not you it is someone near you. We try to place ourselves in the shadows away from the crowd. Maybe, if we just keep quiet we can muddle through unnoticed. Our hearts race while our minds run wild. We begin to imagine the worst possibilities. We panic. It all happens so very quickly. We lose control.

The old Negro spiritual, "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," becomes our momentary theme song. Prayers rehearsed from childhood bubble up as we try to abate the potential impact of a sudden assault on our sensibilities. Nothing works. We are here in the midst of an overwhelming invasion that conquers our souls. We must find a way out. We have to gain control of our lives. This can't be happening. Not now. Not here.

We take in deep breaths in an effort to pull ourselves together. We think positive thoughts to slow our heart beats. We think of Jesus placing a warm hand on our shoulder. We realize this too shall pass. It eases up just a bit. We

feel a calm starting to surface. Our sweaty hands are drying. Relief is near. We begin to feel better. It is going to be alright. We thank God for standing close by us and sustaining us through the crisis. It is over.

Have you ever experienced such an attack? Do you know the fear that comes when everything goes awry? Have you been there, done that?

Such instances provide instructive lessons to help us pay attention to others around us. We know the horror of lonely episodes when we desire a friendly face, a sincere word of concern, or a place of refuge. There have been times when we needed someone to respond to our cries. These are important lessons to deepen our compassion and alert us to challenges so many people are facing.

There is the temptation to ignore or put off someone else's troubling moment. But Jesus invites us to get involved, be concerned, and go to the aid of another person. Whenever he acted, especially on the Sabbath, the day of rest, and in proximity of the temple, Jesus usually got into trouble. The religious leaders demanded faithful obedience to the law, even if it meant a hurting human being would have to suffer just a while longer. For Jesus, that was unacceptable. The Sabbath was made for people to be revived and strengthened in spirit and body. It was not an excuse to leave people in a state of harm or discomfort.

We are called out of the shadows of life and into the glaring light of liberation. We are called to walk together as a source of presence, support and encouragement to each other. We are called out of the shadows without shame, fear, or apology; and we beckon others to join us.

Someone is searching for companionship, a community that welcomes the wholeness of their human presence. They are looking for you and us to be with them through a special period of disappointment and pain. Let us resolve to stand in solidarity with them as a blessing of God's love and grace.

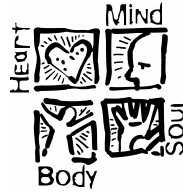
-Pastor Art Cribbs

Look for information on our campaign to support the "Water for Children Africa" mission project which will be kicking off on September 9th!

This Week...

TODAY: 11:30am – Pastoral Relations Committee meets in the Pastor’s Office downstairs

Tuesday: 7pm - Everyone is invited to an evening of “SOUL FOOD,” a time to share, reflect, and discuss the integration of faith and daily experiences. Join the conversation in the Fireside Room.



Wednesday: 6:45pm – The Stillspeaking Theatre Advisory Board will meet in the Green Room downstairs. Dinner will be provided.

Upcoming Events...

- Sunday, Sept. 2 – Deacon’s Meeting
- Thursday, Sept. 6 – Choir rehearsal resumes at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 9 – KICK-OFF Sunday, Choir returns to worship
 - Forum on Water for Children Africa after worship (in Fireside Rm.)
 - 1:00 p.m. Peace Rally at Neighborhood Church in Pasadena
We will join with our Unitarian Universalist sisters and brothers in a call for Peace, partly in response to their Marriage Equality banner being slashed for the third time.
- Sunday, Sept. 16 – Gay “Eco-Pride” event
85 East Holly Street in Pasadena, Noon-6:00pm. We will be staffing a table at the event and will be handing out information about our church. Volunteers needed! See Holly or Tanya if you would like to participate.
- Saturday, Sept. 22 – Call and Vocation event
A conversation with Edith A. Guffey, Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. More information on this fascinating event can be found on our bulletin board. The event will take place at 1st Congregational Church of Long Beach, 241 Cedar Avenue. More information available by calling the church at (562) 436-2256, ext. 221 or at www.firstchurchlb.org



UCC Calendar of Prayer for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Church of Mary Magdalene is a diverse Christian community of homeless and formerly homeless women in Seattle WA, providing a safe environment to build relationships, experience hope and love, explore faith and develop strength to reach one's full potential. Psalm 71 speaks so beautifully to this congregation — they come seeking God, seeking a way out of whatever their problems are. Many UCC churches in the Seattle area provide financial contributions, hot meals and other assistance to this community. Be a guest room where I can retreat; you said your door was always open. (v. 3) The support of so many makes it possible for Mary's Place, our day shelter during the week, to be open and be a place of retreat as well as a place of learning and development. Many gasp in alarm when they see me, but you take me in stride. (v. 7) The gasp in alarm is something the homeless are used to hearing when interacting with those who have more.

The interaction between the Church of Mary Magdalene and other congregations helps people to recognize each other as children of God, bridging the gap between those who have housing and those who do not. Just as each day brims with your beauty, my mouth brims with praise. (v. 8)

Prayer: *Merciful God, as we pour out the wealth you have entrusted to us, the parched places are watered; as we cease our evil talk, the rising light of peace dawns in the darkness. So lead us into faithful living that your promises may unfold in us as a woman's back, long bent, unfolds at Christ's command, to the praise of your holy name. Amen.*

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.