



**SAN MARINO CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2560 HUNTINGTON DRIVE
SAN MARINO, CA 91108**

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**“Never place a period where God has placed a COMMA,
God is STILL SPEAKING!”**

November 22, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

For Reflection

**The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.**

(2 Samuel 23: 3-4)

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 provided by Albert Mendoza & Murray Middleman

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs, Pastor

***SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT**

“I Thank You, Jesus” and “You Are Holy”

***OPENING PRAYER**

Annie Simon

Liturgist: O God of Grace, Mercy, and Glory, your people stand before you with voices lifted in praise to you.

People: We are thankful for all you have provided from your bounty. You have delivered peace beyond understanding.

Liturgist: You fill us with your Holy Spirit. Our lives are made rich by the oneness of your Creation.

People: Yet, we have not always trusted your gifts of life and prosperity. We have been afraid to share our resources.

Liturgist: Come, O God, and strengthen our faith; give us courage; help us to be generous and more hospitable. The brightness of this new day reminds us of your renewing power and loving mercy.

People: We pray our faces will radiate smiles of joy that reflect cheerful hearts. We want to please you, O God, and find favor in your sight.

Liturgist: You fill us with your Holy Spirit. Our lives are made rich by the oneness of your Creation.

People: We are so grateful for everything you have given to meet the needs of all your people. We praise your Holy Name. Hallelujah. Shalom. Salaam. Right on! Amen.

***A NEW SONG FOR THE HEART**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

The Congregation may be seated.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

“Why Do We Have Thanksgiving?”

Pastor Art Cribbs

OUR COMMON PRAYER

“O God, who art in heaven...”

MUSIC TO BLESS THE CHILDREN

“Children Welcome”

Children and Youth are welcome to join our Sunday School and Children Worship & Wonder program! After the children's 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. When these programs finish, children and youth will be brought up to social time.

SCRIPTURE READING	John 18: 33-37	Annie Simon
CHORAL ANTHEM	<i>“Thanks Be To Thee”</i> By George F. Handel Arrangement and English Paraphrase by Channing LeFebvre	The United Voices of San Marino
REFLECTIONS	<i>“A WISE REIGN”</i>	The Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs
MUSIC FOR REFLECTION	<i>“Now Thank We All Our God”</i> Arranged by Georg Kauffmann	Organist: Lester Wakefield
A TIME TO GIVE		Annie Simon
A TIME TO ACT		Donald Shenk
A TIME TO DEDICATE OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS		Annie Simon
Loving God, you have given so generously of your bounty. We have brought back only a portion. Bless this offering and use it for the ministries to your people nearby and throughout your world. We give cheerfully with gratitude and appreciation for our ability to share these resources entrusted to us. Bless this congregation and the United Church of Christ as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you. Amen.		
A TIME TO PREPARE US FOR PRAYER		Soloist: Alexandra Loutsion
	“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”	
A TIME FOR PRAYER		Prayer time led by Pastor Cribbs
*SENDING HYMN	<i>“Now Thank We All Our God”</i> Three verses in English – words will appear on screen	New Century Hymnal #419
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Cribbs
*CHANGING OF THE LIGHT		Annie Simon
*GOING FORTH		Instrumentalists

Everyone is welcome to the SOCIAL TIME next door in Crist Hall after the service.

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 nametag so we can greet you by name) and receive information about everything happening here.

You are welcome to contribute to the Liz Cameron Memorial Fund by using one of the envelopes provided at the Visitor's Center. Proceeds from this fund go toward helping those in need in our community with gifts of food and clothing.

Please note: In an effort to control the spread of any germs - as we approach what we're told is a highly likely virulent flu season - we invite you to utilize the hand sanitizer provided for you at the Nametag table. Thanks to our concerned members who have provided this opportunity.

Thanksgiving is one of my most favorite days of the year. It has not always been that way. In fact, for many years I dreaded Thanksgiving. It was a day of being away from my family and doing news stories about people whose lives were shattered and devastated by violence.

Thanksgiving was not always a happy occasion. It was a day of pain and great suffering. I do not remember the number of times scanners in newsrooms blared with urgent dispatches for emergency assistance to homes where things went terribly wrong. Too often I received the assignment to chase the sirens. It usually happened during mid-afternoon when families were gathered and too much alcohol had been consumed. Instead of loved ones offering prayers of thanksgiving, hardened feelings exploded into episodes of familial disaster.

But, there was one Thanksgiving Day when my assignment editor sent me out to find what may be considered a “traditional” Thanksgiving. I went in search of the “Norman Rockwell portrait of Thanksgiving.” It took hours of driving with a camera crew through the neighborhoods of San Francisco and knocking on doors before a family welcomed us into their home.

We could not have scripted the setting any more perfectly. The scent of delicious food wafted from the kitchen to the front door. Children and adults scurried throughout the house and the sounds of busy activity drowned the din from the streets. It seemed like a miracle to have found such a lively home with people completely engaged in the holiday motif.

For their part, the appearance of a television news team at their home was an unexpected joy. They had planned to celebrate Thanksgiving in a manner that was familiar and common to them. They were a Jewish family who had a tradition of coming together for food, fun, and a time to express their gratitude and appreciation for the blessings they had received. Thanksgiving was a meaningful day. Their home was filled with love and a table full of delightful dishes right down to the roasted turkey as its centerpiece.

For our part, we managed to capture the details of their preparation and the hurried manner in which they moved from the kitchen to the dining room table to place each item in its proper place. And, on cue, when it was time for them to sit down and eat, our lights went on, our camera rolled, and our in-studio news anchor tossed to me for a live shot to report our story on Thanksgiving.

It was a great Thanksgiving. No violence. No bad news. One family was doing what President Abraham Lincoln, no doubt, had in mind in 1863 when he made Thanksgiving Day a national tradition. It did not become a federal holiday in the United States until 1941.

I like Thanksgiving Day because it means our family comes together to enjoy a sacred time. We are reminded of God’s boundless bounty and our ability “to live simply so others can simply live.” We give thanks for life, family, friendship, and the harvest that feeds our bodies and our souls. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

-Pastor Art Cribbs

What’s Happening...

TODAY: **THE THEATRE ADVISORY BOARD** will meet for a planning retreat at 1pm at the Van Horsen Ranch.

• **MON. 7pm MEN’S MEETING**

• **TUES. 7pm SOUL FOOD** will meet in the Green Room.

• **THURS: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!** (no choir rehearsal this week)

Next Sunday: ALL GOD’S FAMILY CHOIR REHEARSAL and GREENING OF THE GROUNDS!

Please plan on staying to help decorate the sanctuary as well as hang lights outside. The short choir rehearsal will happen immediately following worship, and the GREENING will take place after the social time (around 11:20am). We need your help!!



ADVENT WORKSHOPS will be held at First Congregational Church, UCC, in Pasadena on Saturday, December 5, at 9am. The workshops include: *The Presents of Presence: Spiritual Practice When We Are Hurting*, *Yuletide Yoga: Restorative yoga for busy people*, *How to Write a Christmas Letter People Will Actually Read*, and *Christmas Shopping on \$0 a Day*.

THE SPIRIT AND THE SCREEN film club will present, *ELF*, on Saturday, December 5 at 6:45, along with a White Elephant Gift Exchange at the home of Susan Jakubowski and Bruce Weiner. RSVP to Susan at susanjinla@sbcglobal.net



A CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION ON OUR CHANGING CHURCH – Plan now to attend this very important meeting to give your input on important issues facing our church and its lay leadership for 2010. Everyone is encouraged to attend on Sunday, December 6, after our service of worship.

THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION will meet on Sunday, December 13th at 9am.

THE REV. FELIX CARRION will be our guest speaker on Sunday, December 13th (Pastor Art will also participate in the service). Rev. Carrion is the Stillspeaking Coordinator for Proclamation, Identity, And Communication with the Office Of General Ministries of the United Church of Christ headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will meet on Sunday, December 13th after the social time.