

First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 • 10 A.M.

FOLLOW THE LIGHT, FOLLOW THE LOVE

Our Mission:

to be a visible and prophetic presence in the church and in the world,
to steadfastly proclaim the radically inclusive love of God,
to be open to, and celebrate differences; to honor thinking for oneself,
to faithfully work for the inclusion of, and justice for all people, regardless of
age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, race or national
origin, or any particular element of a person's total humanity, and for all of
God's creation.

***Please join in where words are shown in bold type.
Please stand if you are able for items with an asterisk*.***

*Centering ourselves with the sound of the chime
and the Land Acknowledgement*

Prelude

Prelude on "Deep River" from *Four Spirituals* Dr. Marc Dickey
Adolphus Hailstork

Acolytes: Bethany Morales, Josephine Morales

Invocation

The Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg

***Call to Celebration**

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

One: Holy One, plant us like a tree by the water.

MANY: Send our roots into the soil, reaching toward the stream.

One: May we bear fruit in all we do, and may our leaves ever green.

MANY: May we celebrate life in all seasons, living blessings for all God's beloved creation.

One: Come, let us worship in gratitude and hope!

***Processional Hymn #459** Come, O Fount of Every Blessing
See Page 6

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Welcome Song

The children are invited to come forward during this song.

O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, Fling the
church doors o - pen wide. May there be room e - nough for
wel - come, In God we all be - long May that
ev - 'ry - one in - side. For in God there is a
wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman
Music: David Lohman

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Time with the Children

Marley Balin Frederick

The children are dismissed to their Sunday School classes.

Anthem

Hark, I Hear The Harps Eternal
Traditional Hymn, arr. by Alice Parker

Sanctuary Choir

Scripture

Luke 6:17-26
New Revised Standard Version, adapted

Dr. Randy King

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

‘Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your re-ward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

‘But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

‘Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

‘Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.’

Contemporary Reading

Dr. Randy King

From “The Rainbow People of God”
Desmond Tutu

Often and often our people are filled with despair and they wonder, what have we done to deserve all this suffering? It is important for the Church of God to tell the people of God, "Hey, hey, hey! Our God sees. Our God hears. Our God knows and our God will come down and deliver us." And we say it. We say it—in South Africa—we say to them, "Hey, hey, hey! We are going to be free. We are not asking for permission from the rulers of our land. We know we are going to be free." And we say to our oppressors, we say to them, "Do you know what? We are being nice to you. We are inviting you to join the winning side. Come and join the winning side, because you have already lost."

Therefore, we can stand upright with our heads held high. We don't apologize for our existence. God did not make a mistake in creating us. Our God hears. Our God cares. Our God knows and our God will come down to deliver his people. Our God will come to deliver his people, here, everywhere, in South Africa, today, maybe not today. Tomorrow? Maybe not tomorrow. But what can separate us from the love of God? Absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If God be for us, who can be against us!

Special Music

Nature (Girl)
Eden Ahbez, arr. by C. Heard

Lisa Bode Heard, Alto
Curtis Heard, Piano

Sermon

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

*Hymn

Holy is the Refugee
See Page 8

Prayers of the People

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Our Common Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the earth!
With the bread we need today, feed us.
For the hurts we inflict on one another, forgive us.
In the time of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For your reign is in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Offering

Invitation to Give

Dr. Randy King

Offertory Prelude on "We Shall Overcome" from *Four Spirituals* Dr. Dickey
Adolphus Hailstork

*Scan for our secure online donation site or go to
bit.ly/FCCLBGive*

*Or mail a check to First Congregational Church,
241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802*



*Doxology: Old Hundredth (Hymn No. 7)
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God with all the hosts above;
Praise God in wonder, joy and love.**

* Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

***Recessional Hymn #497**

Guide My Feet
See Page 7

***Benediction**

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

***Benediction Response**

Peace to All People

Sanctuary Choir

Postlude

Toccata on “Veni Emmanuel”
Adolphus Hailstork

Dr. Dickey

One License: 706147-A (*in support of our livestream*)

The sanctuary flowers this morning are provided by the David. W. Clements Trust. The flowers are to honor Dr. Ollie E. and Mildred Lee Clements, parents of David W. Clements, and Ronald Mullens, partner of David W. Clements. The flowers are also in memory of David W. Clements.

Parish Concerns

Please remember in your prayers: Patrick O’Neal, Dan Whitesell (Beth’s brother, Dylan & Grace’s uncle), Penney Wilson-Borth (mother of Sebastian Jobin-Reyes), Mary Gissel (mother of Doug Gissel), Wayne Hester; Joanne Paine; Aida Porteneuve; Kathleen ODaniels, Marion Hinze, Beau Chandler, Ben Rockwell, Dale Whitney.

To submit joys and concerns for inclusion in the bulletin and the newsletter and to subscribe to the newsletter, contact the office: office@firstchurchlb.org.

Birthdays This Week – Happy Birthday!

18 Joseph Malleis-Sternberg, Marjie McMillin
19 Mason Johnson, Levi Levensailor
20 Stephanie Fisher

21 Steve Schatz
23 Michael Haumesser, Mary
Ann Johnson, Katrina
Kershaw

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Guide My Feet

497

African-American traditional; alt.

Heb. 12:1-15

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
 2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
 3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
 4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
 while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
 while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
 while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

This stanza may be added following stanza 1:
 Wheel with me while I run this race . . .

The words and music of some African-American spirituals have been widely adapted during the twentieth century, especially in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The alternate words were suggested by a fifth-grade church school class to include those who must "run this race" in a wheelchair.

Tune: GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10.
 African-American traditional
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

HOLY IS THE REFUGEE

Hannah C. Brown

REFUGEE
Mark A. Miller



1. Ho - ly is the ref - u - gee, ho - ly is the guest,
2. Ho - ly are the ques - tion - ing, ho - ly are the queer,
3. Ho - ly are the dis - pos - sessed, ho - ly are the spurned,
4. Ho - ly is the en - e - my, ho - ly is the friend,



ho - ly, those who wan - der far from home.
ho - ly, those who chal - lenge, dance, and dare.
ho - ly are the pro - filed and pa - trolled.
ho - ly, ev - 'ry spir - it as it flames;



Ho - ly are the bod - ies seek - ing safe - ty, warmth and
Ho - ly are the bod - ies choos - ing joy in - stead of
Ho - ly are the bod - ies harmed by ha - tred taught and
Ho - ly is each bod - y, held by love un - til the



1.
rest; be - lov - ed, find a wel - come as you roam.
fear; be -
learned, be -
end, be -



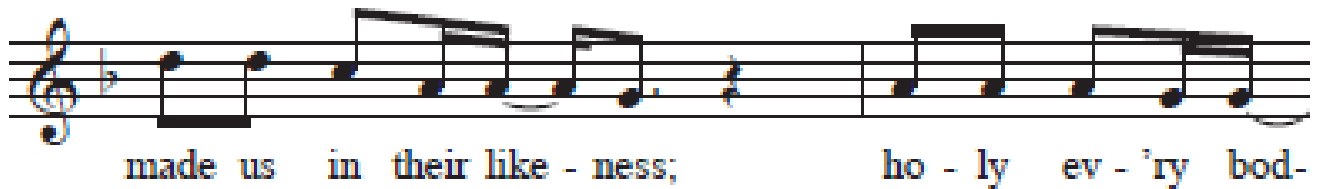
2.-4.
lov - ed, claim a free - dom all can share,
lov - ed, now be shield - ed and con - soled,
lov - ed, may we know what God pro - claims,



Sing - ing, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God who

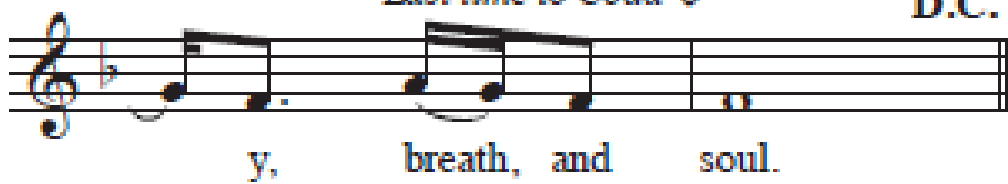


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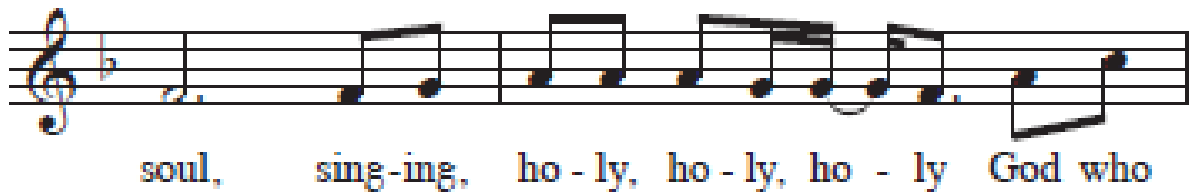
made us in their like - ness; ho - ly ev - 'ry bod-

Last time to Coda † **D.C.**

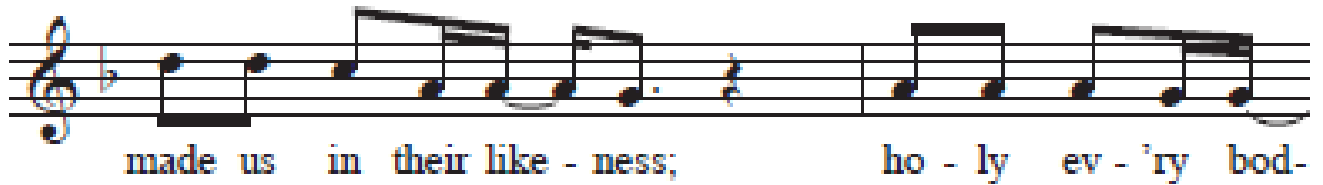


y, breath, and soul.


† **Coda**



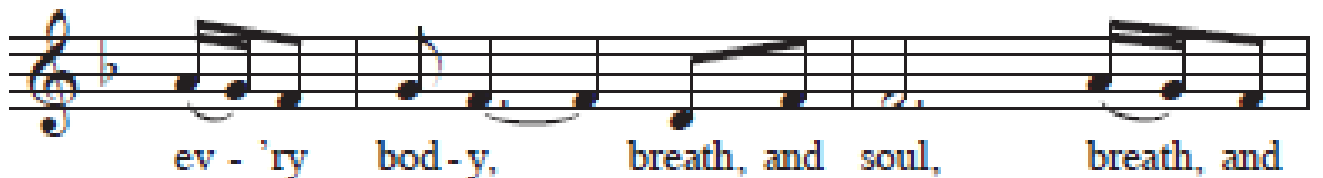
soul, sing-ing, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God who



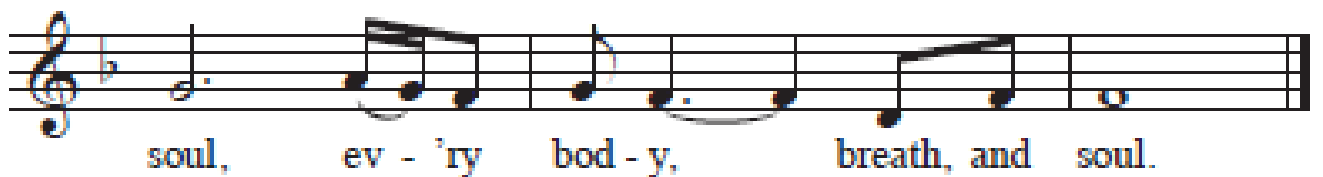
made us in their like - ness; ho - ly ev - 'ry bod-



y, breath, and soul, breath and soul,



ev - 'ry bod - y, breath, and soul, breath, and



soul, ev - 'ry bod - y, breath, and soul.

QUINQUAGESIMA
MARCH 2, 2025

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION
 10 AM WITH FOLK AND BLUEGRASS
 MUSIC FROM *FINE FOLK*

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This Week at First Church

Sunday, February 16

- 8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room & Zoom
- 9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
- 10 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & YouTube.com/1stChurch
Sunday School: K-2nd Grades – Vaughn 1; 3rd-5th Grades –
Klar 1; Jr. High – Sacred Space; High School – High School Rm.
- 12 PM Memorial Service for David Clements – Courtyard and Sanctuary
- 1:30 PM Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

Monday, February 17

Church Closed for President's Day

Tuesday, February 18

- 10:00 AM Sr. Coffee & Conversation – Koinonia Room
- 7:00 PM Personnel Committee – Zoom

Wednesday, February 19

- 7:00 PM UCO Board Meeting – Zoom Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

Thursday, February 20

- 4:00 PM DAYS Safe Passage – Klar 2 & 3
- 5:00 PM Jubellance Rehearsal – Bell Room
- 5:30 PM DAYS Leaders LB – Klar 2 & 3
- 6:00 PM Bellissimo Rehearsal – Bell Room
- 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Friday, February 21

- 1:30 PM DAYS Grocery Program – Patterson Hall & Potholder Lot
- 7:30 PM Landmark The Christians

Saturday, February 22

- 9:30 AM Golf Group – Off-site
- 10:00 AM Family Park Day – San Martin Park
- 10:00 AM UCO Food Drive – Alley
- 7:30 PM Landmark The Christians

Sunday, February 23

- 8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room & Zoom
- 9:00 AM All Seasons Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
- 9:30 AM Charming Chimes Rehearsal – Bell Room
- 9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
- 10:00 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & YouTube.com/1stChurch
- 11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
- 11:30 AM Inbetweeners Small Group Meeting – Booth Chapel
Women's Group – Pownall Room & Zoom
Diaconate Introduction and Safety Training – Sanctuary
Landmark Potluck Luncheon – Ramsay Dining Room
- 1:00 PM Landmark The Christians
- 1:30 PM UCO Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall



First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Doug Emslie, Vice Moderator
Julie Gholson, Treasurer
Kirsten Pickus, Secretary

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Tina Datsko de Sánchez

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Curtis Heard

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Bob Kalayjian

BOOKKEEPER

Melody O'Keefe and
Heather Chambers at Heather R.
Chambers, CPA, Inc.

CLERGY

Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg, Senior
Minister, pmsternberg@firstchurchlb.org
Rev. Wally Hoeger, Associate Minister,
whoeger@firstchurchlb.org

MUSIC STAFF

Curtis Heard, Director of Music
Tracy Halter-Balin, Associate Director of
Music and Youth
Dr. Marc Dickey, Organist
Megan O'Toole, Soprano Soloist
Lisa Bode Heard, Alto Soloist
Charlie Carlos, Tenor Soloist
George Carson, Bass Soloist

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Tracy Halter-Balin, Director of
Christian Education
Eric Peterson, Business Manager
Rhyan Humphrey, Office Manager
Preston Andres, Lead Custodian
Sebastian Lytwynec, **Mercy Castillo**
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Justin Strawther, **Oscar Ramirez**,
Homero Salgado, Custodians
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Rev. Jerry Stinson, Senior Minister
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Retirement Housing Foundation