

First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 20, 2024 • 10 A.M.
UPSIDE DOWN AND RIGHT SIDE UP
CHILDREN'S SABBATH

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

Scherzo
Alan Ridout

Dr. Marc Dickey

Acolytes: Josephine Morales & Cecily Swierenga

Invocation

The Rev. Wally Hoeger

***Call to Celebration**

Rev. Hoeger and The Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg

One: We gather, young, old and in-between,

MANY: each made in God's image, full of promise.

One: We gather, trusting in the promise of new life.

One: We gather, empowered by the Spirit

**MANY: to seek justice,
to love mercy,
to walk humbly with God,**

One: so that all may live out the lives for which they were created.

MANY: Come, let us celebrate God's love on this Children's Sabbath day.

***Processional Hymn #325**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

See page 7

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Special Music

Jesus is the Rock

All Seasons Choir

Presentation of the Dorothy Baker Award

Board of Christian Education

Welcome Song

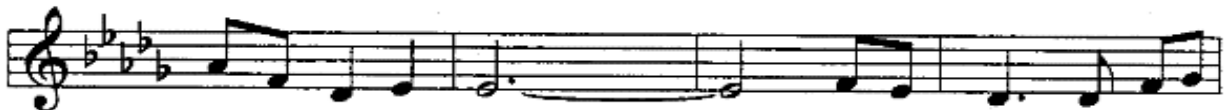
The children are invited to come forward during this song.



O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, Fling the



church doors o - pen wide. May there be room e - nough for



ev-'ry-one in - side. For in God there is a



Text: David Lohman
 Music: David Lohman

© 2007 Lohman Music
 Permission granted for congregational use.

Time with the Children

Tracy Halter-Balin

The children are dismissed to their Sunday School classes.

Anthem

Compassion Begins at Home Sanctuary Choir
 words by Tina Datsko de Sánchez, music by Curtis Heard

Scripture

Mark 10:35-45 Nancy Valencia
 from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

Zebedee’s children James and John approached Jesus. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to grant our request.”

“What is it?” Jesus asked.

They replied, “See to it that we sit next to you, one at your right and one at your left, when you come into your glory.”

Jesus told them, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I will drink or be baptized in the same baptism as I?”

“We can,” they replied. Jesus said in response, “From the cup I drink of, you will drink; the baptism I am immersed in, you will share. But as for sitting at my right or my left, that is not mine to give; it is for those to whom it has been reserved.”

The other ten, on hearing this, became indignant at James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know how among the Gentiles those who exercise authority are domineering and arrogant; those ‘great ones’ know how to make their own importance felt. But it can’t be like that with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all. The Promised One has come not to be served, but to serve—to give one life in ransom for the many.”

Contemporary Reading

Nancy Valencia

From the Seven Sensations of the Prairie
by Meta Herrick Carlson

It's easy to lose ourselves
in urgency of our own making,
in the rush of a world that demands
more and faster, routines created
to serve whole seasons to the hustle.

It's easy to lose ourselves
to loneliness and languishing,
apathy's shrug dulling the wonder
for why we are alive here and now
and whether it matters at all.

It's easy to lose ourselves
to ourselves, or we can get lost
to cosmic light that set out to find us
a million years ago, stars that know:
We are also being found.

Special Music

Upside Down
Jack Johnson
George Carson, soloist
Curtis Heard, ukulele

Sermon

Rev. Hoeger

Hymn #533

Children of God
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
Offertory

Nancy Valencia

Prelude
Sir William H. Harris

*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 #359**

O God, Who Teaches Us to Live
See page 9

***Benediction**

Rev. Hoeger

***Benediction Response**

Living our Wisdom

Datsko/Heard

Postlude

Fanfare
William Mathias

Dr. Dickey

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

The sanctuary flowers this morning are provided by Joanie Stiehl "to honor a dear friend, Marion Hinze. She is such a beautiful and caring person. At 100, she invited us to her home and fixed lunch and offered her books. Love Joanie Stiehl and Tom Nettifee."

Parish Concerns

Please remember in your prayers: Tom Penner on the loss of his brother Scott; Rita S.; David Plowman; 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!

- 20 Ray Hedgpeth, Amelia Hyman
- 21 Ginger Heil, Milo Penner
- 22 Alison Morales
- 24 Gil Griego
- 26 Terry McKiernan
- 28 Nancy Boyd-Batstone

Long Beach AGO: Rising Stars Organ Recital – Today at 4 PM

Join us today for the Rising Stars Organ Recital in the Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by the FCCLB Board of Cultural Arts and the Long Beach Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, four-talented young organists will play The Möller Sanctuary Pipe Organ. After the recital, a simple reception will take place in the Koinonia Room to meet and greet the artists. This is a FREE public event and doors will open at 3:30 p.m.

BOCA Silent Movie Screening: *Metropolis* – October 25 at 7 PM

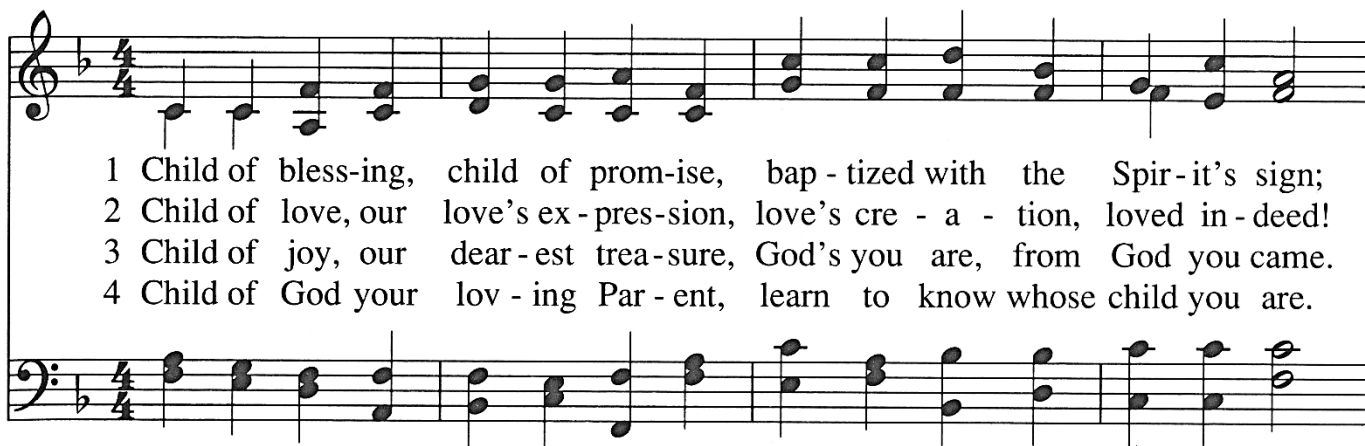
The Board of Cultural Arts is inviting you to *Metropolis*, the 1927 German silent science fiction film with live organ accompaniment by Robert York, on Friday, October 25 at 7 p.m. in our historic sanctuary. Guests are encouraged to come in costume to kick off Halloween weekend. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the 2-hour film and a free-will donation is welcome.

Robert York, a professional musician, composer, church organist and pianist has performed in numerous venues including the historic Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles. York has performed at First Church many times, including our screenings of 'Phantom of the Opera' and 'Nosferatu.'

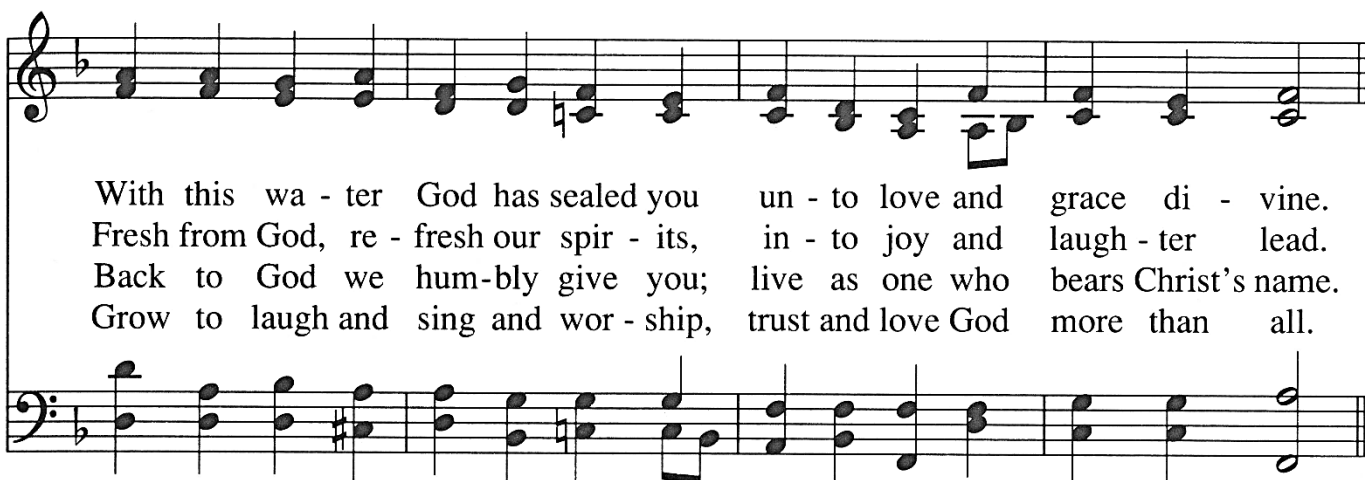
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981



1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir-it's sign;
2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in - deed!
3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you are, from God you came.
4 Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

Eph. 4:31-5:2

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1848; alt.

1 Chil - dren of God, lift hearts to one an - oth - er;
 2 For God whom Je - sus loved has tru - ly spo - ken:
 3 Fol - low with rev - erent steps the great ex - am - ple
 4 Then shall all shack - les fall; the storm - y clan - gor

where pit - y dwells, the peace of God is there;
 the ho - lier wor - ship which Christ deigns to bless
 of Christ whose ho - ly work was do - ing good;
 of wild war mu - sic o'er the earth shall cease;

To wor - ship right - ly is to love each oth - er,
 Re - stores the lost, and binds the spir - it bro - ken,
 So shall the wide earth seem a ho - ly tem - ple,
 Love shall tread out the bale - ful fire of an - ger,

each smile a hymn, each kind - ly deed a prayer.
 and feeds the wid - ow and the par - ent - less.
 each lov - ing life a psalm of grat - i - tude.
 and in its ash - es plant the tree of peace.

Of Puritan ancestry and Quaker parentage, the American poet and journalist John Greenleaf Whittier was a strong supporter of the abolition of slavery. This hymn is comprised of the final stanzas of "Worship," a poem expressing his views on the life of faith.

Tune: WELWYN 11.10.11.10.
 Alfred Scott-Gatty, 1900

O God, Who Teaches Us to Live

359

Tom Hunter, 1992

1 O God, who teach - es us to live and
2 For love that wel - comes chil - dren in and
3 For wis - dom, skills, and con - fi - dence where
4 For words and num - bers, hopes and dreams that
5 For all who fol - low teach - ing's call with

guides us on our way, For all the teach - ers
holds them when they stray, For knowl - edge hearts and
won - der leads to faith, For those who ask and
grow from day to day, For in - spi - ra - tion's
cour - age and with grace To build a fu - ture

in our midst, we give you thanks and praise.
souls re - ceive, we give you thanks and praise.
those who hear, we give you thanks and praise.
mes - sen - gers, we give you thanks and praise.
for us all, we give you thanks and praise.

United Church of Christ minister Tom Hunter describes himself as a "minstrel" for schools and churches across the United States. This hymn was written "to celebrate and thank teachers in both Sunday and weekday schools because their work shapes the future for us all."

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

This Week at First Church

Sunday, October 20

Día de Los Muertos Ofrenda: Members can bring photos – Booth Chapel

- 8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room & Zoom
9 AM All Seasons Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
9:30 AM Charming Chimes Rehearsal – Bell Room
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & YouTube.com/1stChurch
Sunday School: K-2nd Grades – Vaughn 4; 3rd-5th Grades –
Klar 1; Jr. High – Sacred Space; High School – High School Rm.
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
11:30 AM Stewardship Campaign Committee – Sacred Space
Women’s Group – Pownall Room & Zoom
1:30 PM Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall
CROP Hunger Walk 2024 – Los Altos United Methodist Church
4 PM LB AGO: Rising Stars Organ Recital – Sanctuary & Koinonia Room

Monday, October 21

Landmark Rehearsal

- 10 AM Archives Group – Ramsay Dining Room
7 PM Building, Historic Preservation & Safety Board – Zoom

Tuesday, October 22

Landmark Rehearsal

- 7 PM Church Council Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, October 23

Landmark Rehearsal

- 7 PM Sacred Practices – Sacred Space

Thursday, October 24

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

Friday, October 25

- 7 PM BOCA Silent Movie Screening: *Metropolis* – Sanctuary

Saturday, October 26

Landmark Tech Week

- 9:30 AM Golf Group – off-site
10 AM Urban Community Outreach Food Drive – Maple Way Alley

Sunday, October 27

Día de Los Muertos Ofrenda: Members can bring photos – Booth Chapel

- 8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room & Zoom
9 AM All Seasons Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
9:30 AM Charming Chimes Rehearsal – Bell Room
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & YouTube.com/1stChurch
Sunday School: K-2nd Grades – Vaughn 4; 3rd-5th Grades –
Klar 1; Jr. High – Sacred Space; High School – High School Rm.
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
11:30 AM Harvest Festival – Patterson Hall & Kilsby Courtyard
Inbetweeners Small Group Meeting – TBD
1:30 PM Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall



FCCLB HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

11:15 AM - 1:00 PM

SOUP AND CHILI LUNCH, CRAFTS FOR KIDS AND
GROWN-UPS, GAMES AND FELLOWSHIP

First Congregational Church of Long Beach
241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802



Women's Retreat November 15-17

Join us at Pilgrim Pines Camp for an uplifting weekend spent in community with nature and one another. There will be lots of opportunities to explore outdoors, engage in spiritual practices, and have some fun along the way. Participants can sign up for the weekend (Friday-Sunday) or Saturday only. The weekend cost is \$180 and the Saturday only option is \$95. To register please visit:

<https://www.firstchurchlb.org/retreat/>. If you have any questions or need additional information email whoeger@firstchurchlb.org. **The registration deadline is Monday, November 4.**



First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH OFFICERS

Ruth Keller

Moderator

Randel King

Vice Moderator

Steve Crow

Treasurer

Kirsten Pickus

Secretary

BOARD CHAIRS

Building, Historic Preservation &
Safety: Dorothy King and
Victoria Bryant

Christian Education: Tim O'Keefe

Cultural Arts: Doug Emslie

Diaconate: Julie Ford and
Robert Stapp

Parish Life: Alison Mitchell

Social Justice and Outreach:
Judy Dodgen

Stewardship and Finance:
Cathy Chambers

AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Kalayjian, Terry McKiernan,
Sebastian Jobin-Reyes

POET-IN-RESIDENCE

Tina Datsko de Sánchez

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Curtis Heard

HISTORIAN

Bob Kalayjian

CLERGY

Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg, Senior Minister,
pmsternberg@firstchurchlb.org

Rev. Wally Hoeger, Associate Minister,
whoeger@firstchurchlb.org

CLERGY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rev. Jerry Stinson, Senior Minister Emeritus

Rev. Katy Hyman, Director of Palliative Care,
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center

Rev. Laverne R. Joseph, Retired from
Retirement Housing Foundation

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

Alejandra Perez, Office Manager

Preston Andres, Lead Custodian

Justin Strawther, Custodian

Ricardo Escalante, Audio Engineer

Abby Zidonis, Video Technician

**Melody O'Keefe or Heather Chambers at
Heather R. Chambers, CPA, Inc.,
Bookkeeper**