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.

Worship Team

The Rev. Elena Larssen, Senior Minister
Curtis Heard, Music Director, Piano
Dr. Marc Dickey, Organ
Shirley Owens, Liturgist
Megan O’Toole, Vocalist
Paisha Bleich, Recording Engineer
Adreana Langston, Video Technician

Please join in where words are shown in bold type.

Prelude – Dr. Dickey

At the River
by Robert Lowry, arr. George Baker
Call to Celebration – Rev. Larssen

In likeness with the Creator and Lover of Life, who yearns for the flourishing of all, we are unsettled. Upset. Tossed in the surf and currents of the times. The preciousness of living is treated with contempt. Daily, we weep over evil's reign. For every sibling, kin and stranger, neglected or exploited, God let your majestic vision of justice move us to respond.

Sound of the Singing Bowl and Prayer of Invocation – Rev. Larssen

All: Bread of heaven, nourish us in this period of wandering. Through wildernesses wearisome and fearful, we strive to remain faithful. Keep our minds set upon lands of abundance, where justice rolls down like waters and love is the law. Do not let us settle for crumbs of life, but encourage us in persevering toward your Kindom. Amen.

Welcome Song
Greetings, Passing the Peace

Hymn #313, vv. 1-2

Like a Tree beside the Waters

Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care,
We, O God, your sons and daughters, your enduring witness bear.
In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard.
Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, living Word.

Like a tree beside the river, drawing life from holy streams,
Fill us with your love forever; recreate our hopes and dreams,
Through the storms of life sustain us by the wisdom of your grace.
May the changing of the seasons find us in your warm embrace.

Children’s Messages

Scripture in a Video: The Story of Jonah

Contemporary Reading – Shirley Owens

From How to Be an Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi

“Becoming an Antiracist:
To be antiracist is to think nothing is behaviorally wrong or right- inferior or superior- with any of the racial groups. Whenever the antiracist sees individuals behaving positively or negatively, the antiracist sees exactly that: individuals behaving positively or negatively, not representatives of whole races. To be antiracist is to deracialize behavior, to remove the tattooed stereotype from every racialized body. Behavior is something humans do, not races do.”

Special Music

Moon River

music by Henry Mancini, words by Johnny Mercer
George Carson, bass

Service of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer – Rev. Larssen

by Laura Jean Truman https://laurajeantruman.com/

The tingsha bells invite us to a moment of silence.
God,
Keep my anger from becoming meanness.
Keep my sorrow from collapsing into self-pity.
Keep my heart soft enough to keep breaking.
Keep my anger turned towards justice, not cruelty.
Remind me that all of this, every bit of it, is for love.
Keep me fiercely kind.
Amen.

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.

Anthem
   Down to the River to Pray
   American folk song, arr. J. Guy Stalnaker
   Sanctuary Choir

Sermon – Rev. Larssen
Hymn

*Draw the Circle Wide*

Gordon Light

Mark. A. Miller
Katherine Saxon

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. No one stands alone, we’ll stand side by side. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: No one stands alone. Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide. Draw the wide.
**Offering**  
The Invitation – Shirley Owens  
Offertory – Dr. Dickey

*Meditation (on a Plainchant)*  
by Joseph W. Clokey

_We thank you for your generosity during these unusual times._  
*Please give online at our secure donation site: [http://bit.ly/2BT1B4P](http://bit.ly/2BT1B4P)*  
*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 Thanksgiving – Rev. Larssen

**Benediction** – Rev. Larssen

**Benediction Response**  
*Proud Mary*  
by John Fogerty  
Sanctuary Choir

**Postlude** – Dr. Dickey  
*March*  
by Flor Peeters

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**Please join us for All Church Zoom Coffee Hour, hosted by Curtis Heard.**  
Join Zoom Meeting:  
[https://zoom.us/j/93177044296?pwd=dW81SEx3aTZJQVJxOTRFeWNDNEJGdz09](https://zoom.us/j/93177044296?pwd=dW81SEx3aTZJQVJxOTRFeWNDNEJGdz09)  
Meeting ID: 931 7704 4296  
Password: 414024  
Call in: 669-900-6833
Subscribe to *The Pilgrim*, our weekly e-news, by contacting office@firstchurchlb.org.

The sanctuary flowers today are provided by Patrick and Kathleen O’Neal in celebration of Kathleen’s 75th birthday on October 19.

The flower arrangement on the communion table is from a grateful congregation in recognition and celebration of Rev. Elena’s ministry.

The prayers are from Liturgy That Matters by enfleshed.com.

**Birthdays This Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Zoe Hedgpeth, Zane Witter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Elias Barth, Mark Hyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mary Lou Klar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bill Armstrong, Robert Borrero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Hopeton Dias, Austin Underwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Alice Ivey, Matt Jaeckel, Alex Ritchie</td>
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</tbody>
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**Parish Concerns**

Please remember Lynn Keller, sister-in-law of Ruth Keller and Larelle Hendon; Steve Norris, Teri Brewster’s brother; Bonnie Wilke and the family and friends of Kit Wilke upon his death.

**This Week at First Church**

All activities are on Zoom unless otherwise indicated.

For information about these meetings, please see this week’s *Pilgrim*.

**Sunday, October 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Koinonia Room Coffee Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Service of Celebration of God’s Love – FCCLB YouTube Channel</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>All Church Coffee Hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 am</td>
<td>Service of Prayer and Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30</td>
<td>Drop-In Center – on-site</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Youth Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 pm</td>
<td>Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Kilsby Courtyard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monday, October 12
7 pm   Racists Anonymous

Wednesday, October 14
6:30 pm  Sacred Practices
8 pm  Parent & Guardian Support Group

Thursday, October 15
5 pm  Jubellance Rehearsal – Kilsby Courtyard
6 pm  Bellissimo Rehearsal – Kilsby Courtyard
7:30 pm  Sanctuary Choir Gathering

Saturday, October 17
10 am  Urban Community Outreach Food Drive – Maple Way alley
5 pm  Guest Chef – offsite
7 pm  Women’s Book Discussion: Caste

Sunday, October 18
9 am  Adult Education
      Koinonia Room Coffee Hour
10 am  Service of Celebration of God’s Love – FCCLB YouTube Channel
11 am  All Church Coffee Hour
11:15 am  Service of Prayer and Communion
11:30 am  Women’s Group
1:30   Drop-In Center – on-site
2 pm  Youth Group
5 pm  Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Kilsby Courtyard

The church staff is primarily working from home.
A staff person from the Maintenance Department is onsite Monday-Friday.
Rev. Larssen is available for phone counseling by appointment.