



First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 12, 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 "Borning Cry"
David Christiansen

Dr. Marc Dickey

Acolyte: Bethany Morales

Invocation

The Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg

***Call to Celebration**

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg and the Rev. Wally Hoeger
Call to Celebration adapted from the UCC Disabilities Ministries

One: We gather in the name of our God.

Many: The Disabled God, the God of Access, the God of Interdependence, the God whose Differences are Holy.

One: How shall we worship this God?

Many: With sound and with silence, with raised hands and with stillness, with words spoken and unspoken, with deep thought and the inner movements of our souls.

One: With every limit and ability of our bodies and minds, we will worship the Holy One.

Many: We lift praise and celebrate joy in all our ways, to all Your names.

***Processional Hymn #326** Crashing Waters at Creation
See page 8

Welcome and Announcements
Passing of the Peace

Rev. Hoeger
Rev. Hoeger

Welcome Song

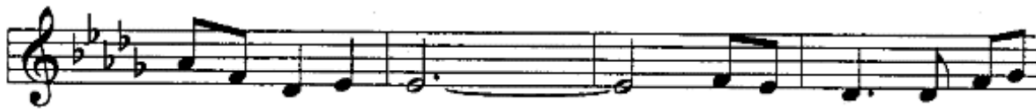
The children are invited to come forward during this song.



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



wel - come, In God we all be - long May that



wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman
Music: David Lohman

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Time with the Children

Tracy Halter-Balin and Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

*The children are dismissed to their Sunday School classes.***Anthem**Many Gifts, One Spirit
Allen Pote

Sanctuary Choir

Scripture

Luke 5: 17-19

The Rev. Jenn Tafel

One day while Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem were sitting nearby, and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but, finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus.

Contemporary Reading

Rev. Tafel

An excerpt from *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-first Century* by Alice Wong

Disabled people have always existed, whether the word disability is used or not. To me, disability is not a monolith, nor is it a clear-cut binary of disabled and nondisabled. Disability is mutable and ever-evolving. Disability is both apparent and nonapparent. Disability is pain, struggle, brilliance, abundance, and joy. Disability is sociopolitical, cultural, and biological. Being visible and claiming a disabled identity brings risks as much as it brings pride.”

Special MusicWaking Light
BeckLisa Bode Heard, alto
Curtis Heard, piano**Sermon**

Tearing Down the Roof to Jesus

The Rev. Ben Bond

***Hymn #351**

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry
See pages 6 & 7

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

Rev. Tafel

Offertory On the River: I Stood on the River of Jordan
(Homage to Burleigh), by Joe Utterback

Dr. Dickey

*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 #164** Arise, Your Light is Come
See page 7

***Benediction**

Rev. Bond

***Benediction Response** Peace to All People
Music by Curtis Heard

Sanctuary Choir

Postlude Go Tell It on the Mountain from
"Carols of the Christ Child"
Janet Linker

Dr. Dickey

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

The sanctuary flowers this morning are provided by Pam Chapin on behalf of our congregation and are dedicated to all first responders and families affected by the horrific fires burning throughout LA county. We offer our heartfelt prayers to them.

Parish Concerns

Please remember in your prayers: Ray Vara; Wayne Hester; Joanne Paine; Aida Porteneuve; Kathleen ODaniels, Marion Hinze, and Marion's dear friend Mr. Bustamante, 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!

13 Chan Brainard

16 Timothy O'Keefe

14 Sam Johnson

17 Chuck DeBruyn, Michael Gardner

Guest Speaker

Rev. Ben Bond (he/they) is the Faith Inclusion and Belonging Associate at the national disability organization Disability Belongs. Ben's work focuses on supporting faith communities across traditions with implement accessibility materially and culturally. Ben is the Co-Chair of the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition in Washington D.C, and is a Core Council member of the Institute on Theology and Disability. Ben earned his Master of Divinity degree at Yale University, where his work as a disability activist with faith communities blossomed. They are a third-generation member of FCCLB and hold a deep gratitude for how our community has shaped their theology and values of social justice.

At 11:30 a.m. Ben will lead an Adult Education forum for us in the Koinonia Room about accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities. The Forum will also be available to join on Zoom, and all are encouraged to attend.

CONFIRMATION

351

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; ab

Unison

G D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D.
 John Ylvisaker, 1985

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

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Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

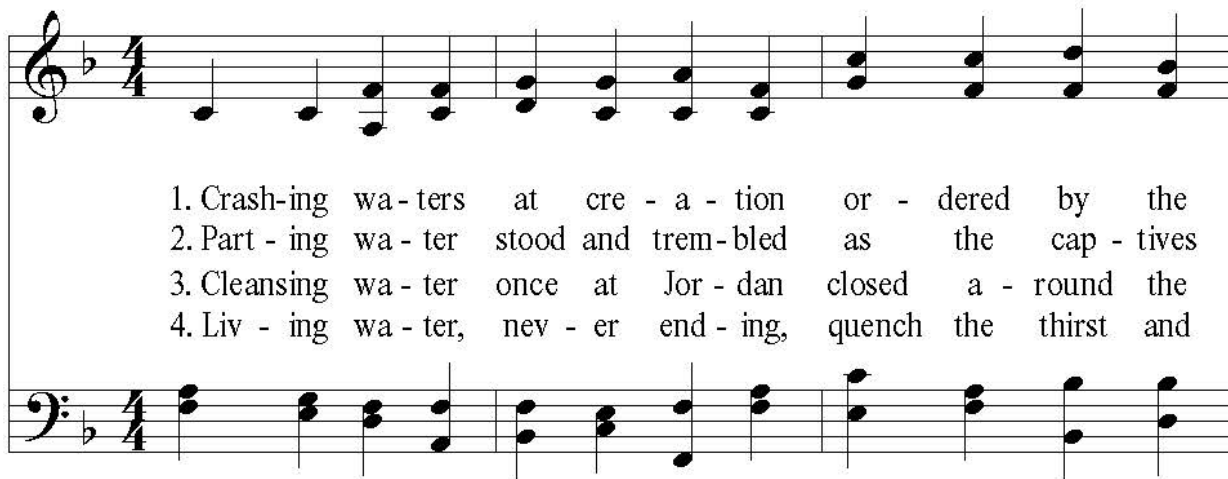
Ruth Duck, 1973

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

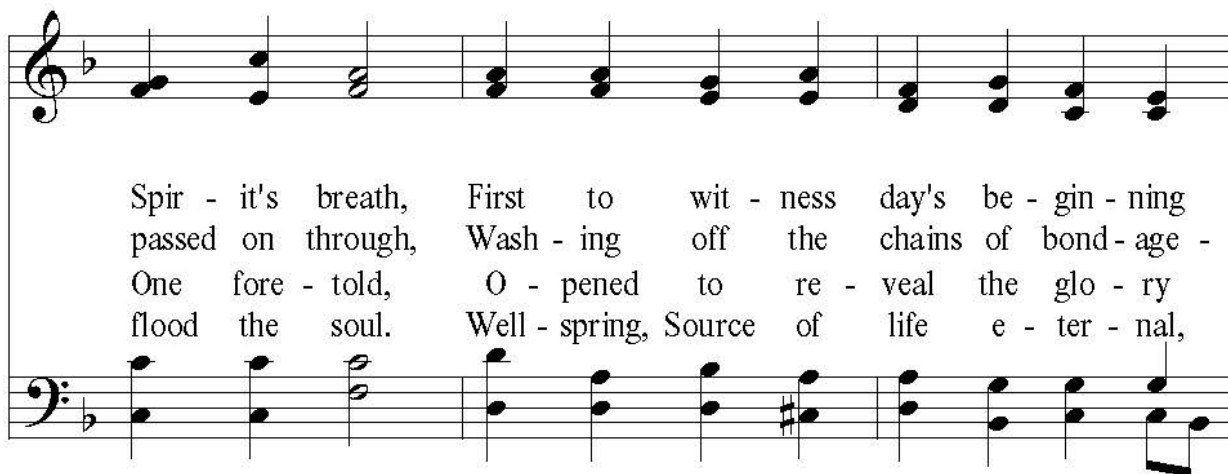
Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Crashing Waters at Creation

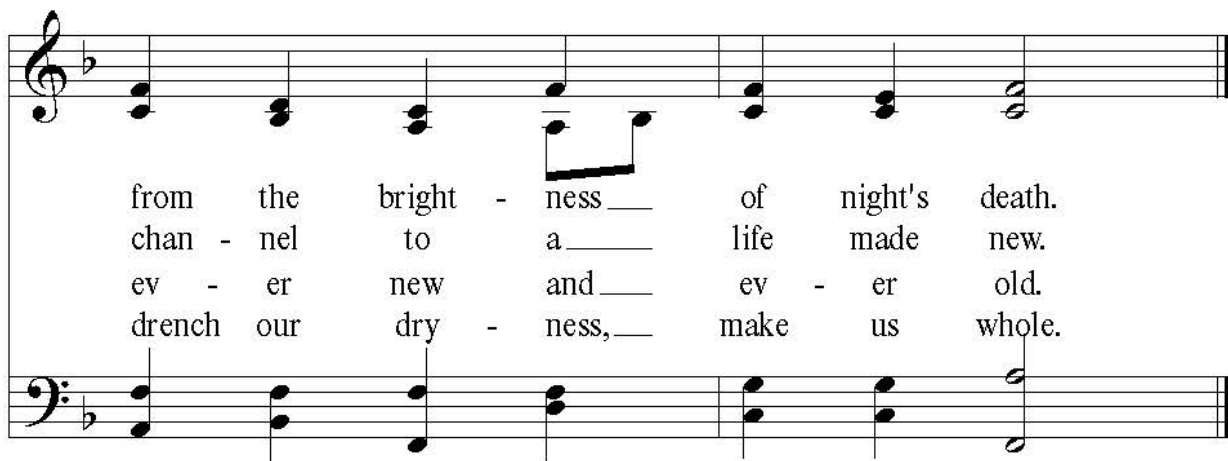
326



1. Crash-ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion or - dered by the
2. Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives
3. Cleansing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the
4. Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and



Spir - it's breath, First to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning
passed on through, Wash - ing off the chains of bond - age -
One fore - told, O - pened to re - veal the glo - ry
flood the soul. Well - spring, Source of life e - ter - nal,



from the bright - ness of night's death.
chan - nel to a life made new.
ev - er new and ev - er old.
drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

This Week at First Church

Sunday, January 12

- 8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room & Zoom
- 9 AM All Seasons Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
- 9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Charming Chimes Rehearsal – Bell 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 A2A Adult Ed Forum about Inclusion and Accessibility - Koinonia Rm
- 1:30 PM Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall
- 4 PM Serendipity Suppers – Off-site

Monday, January 13

- 10 AM Archives Group
- 7 PM DAYS Board Meeting – Zoom
A2A Church Leadership Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, January 14

- 6 PM Women's Book Group - Offsite

Wednesday, January 15

- 7 PM UCO Board Meeting - Zoom

Thursday, January 16

- 4 PM DAYS Safe Passage – Koinonia Room
- 5 PM Jubellance Rehearsal – Youth Music Room
- 6 PM Bellissimo Rehearsal – Youth Music Room
- 5:30 PM DAYS Leaders LB – Koinonia Room
- 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Friday, January 17

- 1:30 PM DAYS Grocery Program - Patterson and Alley

Saturday, January 18

- 9:30 AM Golf Group – off-site
- 10 AM Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade – intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr.
Avenue and Anaheim Street
- 10 AM Urban Community Outreach Food Drive – Maple Way Alley
- 12 PM Leadership Retreat – Ramsay Dining Hall

Sunday, January 19

- 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](https://www.youtube.com/1stChurch)
Sunday School: K-2nd Grades – Vaughn 1; 3rd-5th Grades –
Klar 1; Jr. High – Sacred Space; High School – High School Rm.
11 AM Coffee Hour – Koinonia Room
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
11:30 AM Women’s Group – Pownall Room
Board of Christian Education Meeting – Ramsay Dining Hall
1:30 PM Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade – Next Saturday!

This Saturday, January 18 is the 37th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. First Church is honored to participate once again. The Parade steps off south of Anaheim and MLK Blvd at 10am. We will begin setting up at 8:30 a.m. with the parade starting at 10 a.m. The Parade ends at Martin Luther King Jr Park. There doesn't appear to be shuttles transporting participants from the parking lot at the park to the beginning of the parade route. After the parade, many of us will be heading back to church for our Leadership Retreat which will start at 12pm. More information will be included in this week’s Pilgrim.



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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Curtis Heard

HISTORIAN

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

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Abby Zidonis, Video Technician

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