



# Passing of the Peace

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  
5 wide. May there be room e-nough for ev-'ry-one in - side. For in God there is a  
11 wel-come, In God we all be-long. May that wel - come be our song.

music and lyrics by David Lohman ©2007 Lohman Music Permission granted for congregational use

## Time With the Children

Tracy Halter-Balin

## Anthem

The Song Is Alive  
Ken Medema

Sanctuary Choir

*The children are invited to head to Sunday School.*

## Scripture

John 20:19-31  
Common English Bible, adapted

Rev. Hoeger

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!" But Thomas replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

### Contemporary Reading

Vine a Los Angeles  
by Adolfo Guzman-Lopez

Adolfo Guzman-Lopez

The eagle  
perched on the cactus  
called me to Los Angeles.

The Templo Mayor lays buried here.

In my city;  
Mexico City;  
jaguar heads of volcanic stone  
became cornerstone for colonial  
palaces,  
became podiums for politicians,  
became baptism wells for el nuevo  
mexicano.

In my new city,  
adobe forts  
became foundations  
for post-war tract homes,  
as far as the eye can see.  
They sway  
like Kansas wheat fields.

It's here, the Californio city  
buried

under the oil well city  
buried  
under the Zoot Suit city  
buried  
under the Dunbar city.

Orthodox shuls  
under Brooklyn Avenue  
sonidero speakers.

The Eastside minaret  
blasts narcocorridos,  
The Eastside minaret  
blasts Cri Cri.

The Eastside minaret  
Blasts na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na-  
na-na.

Cross  
the river  
over forearms graffiti-tattooed.

The frogs  
sleep under the concrete.

The rows of grape vines  
sleep under the concrete.  
The boom-booms from  
the Masque,  
the Vex,  
and the Moratorium  
sleep under the concrete.

Use your hands,  
dig deep,  
Use your nose,  
dig deep,  
Use your mouth,  
dig deep,  
Use your heart,  
dig deep.

**Special Music** Head Full of Doubt/Road Full of Promise Charlie Carlos, tenor  
Written by Scott Avett, Seth Avett and Robert Crawford Marc Dickey, piano

**Sermon** So That You Can Have Life and Peace Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

**Hymn, No. 10** Rock of Ages  
See Page 9

**Prayers of the People** Rev. Katy Hyman

**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** Adolfo Guzman-Lopez

**Offertory** "We Shall Overcome" (*Maestoso*) from Four Spirituals Dr. Dickey  
Adolphus Hailstork

Scan for our secure online donation site or go to  
*firstchurchlb.org/donate*  
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**

Adolfo Guzman-Lopez

**\*Recessional Hymn, No. 249** Peace I Leave With You, My Friends  
*See Page 10 & 11*

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

**Postlude**

Toccata on "Great Day" from *Four Spirituals*  
Adolphus Hailstork

Dr. Dickey

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

*First Church has both assistive listening devices and noise-blocking headphones available to borrow for services. Please see one of the Diaconate, ushering in the entry to the church, to borrow one of these assists or to ask any other questions about available accommodations. Thank you!*

The sanctuary flowers this morning are shared by Doug and Carole Gissel welcoming their daughter Natalie home. Natalie recently completed a 15 month contract at Tokyo Disney Resort.

### ***Parish Concerns***

Please remember in your prayers: Charlotte Waldo, Sam Kirk, David McMillin, Dale Whitney, Marion Hinze, Wayne Hester, Joanne Paine, and Aida Porteneuve.

*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](mailto:office@firstchurchlb.org).*

### ***Birthdays This Week – Happy Birthday!***

06 - Micah Smith

11 - Larelle Hendon

09 - Barbara Smith

12 - Suyay Chalco, Myles Legeros

10 - Gary Paredes-Tryan

## ***This Week at First Church***

### **Sunday, April 12**

- 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  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
- 10:00 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary and Youtube.com/1stChurch  
Sunday School – Klar 1 & 3, Sacred Space and High School Room
- 11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
- 11:30 AM Adolfo Guzman-Lopez Forum – Koinonia Room
- 1:30 PM UCO Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall
- 3:00 PM Gathering for Beau Chandler – Koinonia Room

### **Monday, April 13**

- 10:00 AM Archives Group – Ramsay Dining Room

### **Tuesday, April 14**

- 10:00 AM Handmakers Small Group Meeting – Koinonia Room
- 6:00 PM Book Group – Off-site in a member's home

### **Wednesday, April 15**

- 7:00 PM Social Justice Book Club – Zoom

### **Thursday, April 16**

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

### **Friday, April 17**

- 1:30 PM DAYS Grocery Program

### **Saturday, April 18**

- 9:30 AM Golf Group – off-site at a local golf course
- 10:00 AM UCO Food Drive – Maple Way Alley

### **Sunday, April 19**

- 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  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
- 10:00 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary and Youtube.com/1stChurch  
Sunday School – Klar 1 & 3, Sacred Space and High School Room
- 11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
- 11:30 AM Confirmation Class – Sr. High Room  
Women's Group – Pownall Room  
Library Forum – Koinonia Room
- 1:30 PM UCO Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall
- 2:00 PM BOCA Concert: Barry Stees and Friends

# The Power of Libraries

A forum in celebration of National Library Week

Featuring a panel of local librarians discussing censorship, the evolution of libraries, library resources, and more.

April 19, 2026

11:30AM

Koinonia Room



Journals  
Access  
Support  
Preservation  
Refuge  
Engagement  
Community  
Technology  
Knowledge

THE LIBRARY AT  
First Congregational Church  
of Long Beach  
241 Cedar Avenue, Long Beach

Former Long Beach Public Librarian, Blanche Collins successfully defended a 1962 challenge to the novel *The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis. Learn more about Blanche at the forum.

Illustration by Rhyann Humphrey, FCCLB Office Manager



## A FUSION OF MUSIC & ART

with Barry Stees & Friends

INCLUDING, THE VIDEO "SHAPING REALITY" BY MELINDA STEES  
PREMIERING "WEAVING" BY CURTIS HEARD

**19 APRIL, 2026 • 02:00 PM**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LONG BEACH  
241 CEDAR AVE, LONG BEACH, 90802

FREE WILL OFFERING  
ACCEPTED

April 19, 2026

Join us as we present  
The Great Kapok Tree:  
A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest  
during our worship service.



based on the beautiful book by Lynne Cherry  
and music by Paul Boyd-Batstone  
featuring the kids and youth of FCC to  
celebrate Earth Day

Spring Camp  
INTERGENERATIONAL CAMP

April 24 - 26, 2026

\$175 (10 and up)

\$135 (4-9 years old)

3 and under are Free

To register visit  
[www.pilgrimpinescamp.org](http://www.pilgrimpinescamp.org)

Registration closes April 15th

PILGRIM PINES CAMP

# Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

241

Latin, c. 5th century

Luke 24:36-37

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone  
2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our  
3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our  
out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles  
hearts to be your own, That we may give you  
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on  
hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.  
all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.  
death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

# Maoz Tsur Y'shuati

(Rock of Ages)

*Jewish traditional*  
*Transl. Marcus Jastrow and Gustave Gottheil, 20th century*

1. Ma - oz tsur y' - shu - a - ti l'-cha na - eh l'-sha - bei - ach,  
 1 Rock of a - ges, let our song praise your sav - ing pow - er;  
 2 Chil-dren of the Ho - ly God, wheth - er free or fet - tered,

ti - kon beit t' - fi - la - ti v'-sham to - dah n' - za - bei - ach.  
 you, a - mid the rag - ing foe, were our shel - tering tow - er.  
 wake the ech - oes of that song where you may be scat - tered.

L'-eit ta - chin mat - bei - ach mi - tzar ham' - na - bei - ach,  
 Fu - rious it as - sailed us, but your arm a - vailed us,  
 Yours the mes - sage cheer - ing that the time is near - ing

az eg - mor b'shir miz - mor cha - na - kat ha miz bei - ach.  
 and your word broke its sword when our own strength failed us.  
 which will see all set free, ty - rants no more fear - ing.

# Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

John 14:18-29

Ray Repp, 1967

*Refrain*

D Em G D F#m

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in

Em Gm D Em G D F#m

all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to

Bm Em G D

you so you can give to oth - ers, too.

D Em G D

1 To share God's love is why I came,  
2 Take my hand and be at peace;  
3 With this love now all will know

F#m Em/G Gm

to show God's kind - ness with - out end.  
the spir - it of our love I send.  
that lone - li - ness is at an end.

EASTER SEASON

Go now, my friends, and do the same,  
And with this love you will be free,  
Re-joice, my friends, al - though I go,

un - til I come a - gain.  
un - til I come a - gain.  
for I will come a - gain.

***Are you new to First Church? Join us for Lunch!***  
*By Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg*

You are invited to a Newcomers Lunch Gathering on Sunday, April 26 at 11:30 AM in the Koinonia Room. We will share more during lunch about our congregation and our activities, about the wider United Church of Christ, and we will talk about what it means to be a member of our church. And, we will close with a historical tour of the church if you haven't been on one before!

If you can't attend that day and are interested in joining our church or learning more, please contact Rev. Petra to set up a conversation at another time that works for you. Then, for those who choose to join, new members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, May 3. We look forward to sharing with you and getting to know you!



First Congregational Church of Long Beach  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## CHURCH OFFICERS

**Doug Emslie**, Moderator  
**Charlotte Waldo**, Vice Moderator  
**Julie Gholson**, Treasurer  
**Kirsten Pickus**, Secretary

## BOARD CHAIRS

Building, Historic Preservation & Safety:

Pam Chapin, Dorothy King

Christian Education:

Elena Legeros

Cultural Arts:

Julie Ford & Tim Mountain

Diaconate:

Harold Sutherland & Bill Peck

Parish Life:

Alison Mitchell & Don Donan

Social Justice and Outreach:

Jenn Tafel

Stewardship & Finance:

Jane Hansen & Randy King

## AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cathy Chambers, Heather Chambers &  
Sebastian Jobin-Reyes

## COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Curtis Heard

## POET-IN-RESIDENCE

Tina Datsko de Sánchez

## HISTORIAN

Bob Kalayjian

## BOOKKEEPERS

Melody O'Keefe & Heather Chambers at  
Privity CPA Partners, LP

## CLERGY

**Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg**, Senior  
Minister

[pmsternberg@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:pmsternberg@firstchurchlb.org)

**Rev. Wally Hoeger**, Associate Minister

[whoeger@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:whoeger@firstchurchlb.org)

## MUSIC STAFF

**Curtis Heard**, Director of Music

**Tracy Halter-Balin**, Associate Director of  
Music

**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  
Ed.

**Eric Peterson**, Business Manager

**Rhyan Humphrey**, Office Manager

**Preston Andres**, Lead Custodian

**Richie Muhammad**, **Yesi Urrea Castro**,

**Sebastian Lytwynec**, **Mercy Torres**,  
Sunday School

**Oscar Ramirez**, **Elijah Brown**, **Joel**

**Gantt**, **Cassie Jordan**, Custodians

**Julianne Fung**, Audio Technician

**Abby Zidonis**, Video Technician

## CLERGY IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Rev. Jerry Stinson**, Senior Minister  
Emeritus

**Rev. Katy Hyman**, Director of Pediatric  
and Adult Palliative Care, MemorialCare