

First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 5, 2024 • 10 A.M.
CONFIRMATION SERVICE



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

Dr. Marc Dickey

Hymn Prelude on "Come, Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire" (*Veni, Creator Spiritus*)

By Sarum plainsong, setting Wilbur Held

Acolytes: Bethany Morales and Hannah Pearce

Invocation

The Rev. Wally Hoeger and Daphne Marquez
from *Desiderata* by Max Ehrmann

*Call to Celebration

Confirmands

Voice 1: Spirit of Joy – come like the wind, swirling among us; fill us with enthusiasm, and energize us to do your work and your will.

MANY: Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Joy!

Voice 2: Spirit of Truth – come as the flame of Christ's light among us, shining in our hearts, our minds, our lives.

MANY: Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Truth!

Voice 3: Spirit of Life – come as the breath of life, pouring energy and power into our dry bones, rekindling those who are weary, that we may have life and know God.

MANY: Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Life!

Voice 4: Spirit of Hope – come from the four winds, breathing upon all your people, that all creation may be renewed with hope.

MANY: Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Hope!

Voice 5: Spirit of Love – come as our Comforter and Consoler, so that all who are broken and wounded are healed, so that all who grieve may be consoled by the power of your love and grace.

MANY: Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Love!

Voice 6: Spirit of Wisdom – come as the light of understanding, that diversity in all its forms may be respected and may be understood as something to value.

MANY: Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Wisdom!

Voice 7: Spirit of Peace – come as the winds of truth, that our hearts may be kindled by the passion for justice and peace.

MANY: Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Peace!

*Hymn

Circle of Friends

See page 7

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg

Passing of the Peace

Jonathan Malleis-Sternberg and Daphne Marquez

Service of Confirmation

Confirmands: Owen Gardner-Orr, Jade Dodgen,
Alex Malleis-Sternberg, Jonathan Malleis-Sternberg, Daphne Marquez,
Milo Penner, and Joycelyn Scott

Invitation
Pouring the Water
Baptisms
Affirmation of Faith
Act of Confirmation
Response of the Congregation

To all of you, I ask: Reaffirming our own faith, do we gladly and gratefully welcome each of these young people into this community of faith, enfolding them with our love and committing ourselves to their care?

If so, please answer: **We do!**

In the power of God's Spirit, will we work together as we encourage each other to trust God and strengthen one another to serve others, that this church may continue to be a place of welcome and grace?

If so, please answer: **We will!**

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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Anthem

I Sing the Body Electric
words by Dean Pitchford (based on the poem by Walt Whitman) music by
Michael Gore, arr. by Ed Lojeski
Sanctuary Choir
Jade Dodgen, soloist
Owen Gardner-Orr, drums
Milo Penner, trombone
Joycelyn Scott, alto sax
Dr. Marc Dickey, piano

The children are dismissed to their Sunday School classes.

Scripture

Acts 2:1-21
The Inclusive Bible

Owen Gardner-Orr

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room.
Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven;
the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting.
Something appeared to them like tongues of fire;
they separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled
with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in languages as she enabled them.

Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under
heaven, and at this sound they all assembled.
But they were bewildered to hear their native languages spoken.
They were amazed and astonished:
'Surely all these people speaking are Galileans!
How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue...'

The people had come from many lands and they heard them preaching in their
own language about the marvels of God.

All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, 'What does this
mean?' But others said mockingly, 'They've drunk too much new wine...'

Then Peter stood and addressed the crowd telling them, this is what the
prophet Joel spoke of:

In the days to come – it is our God who speaks –
I will pour out my spirit on all humankind.
All your children will prophesy,
your young people will see visions,
and your elders will dream dreams.

Even on the most unlikely of my people,
both women and men, I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy...

Contemporary Reading

Statement of Faith

Alex Malleis-Sternberg

Special Music

"If I Die Young"
By Kimberly Perry
Jade Dodgen, guitar/vocals

Interactive Prayer Stations

Hymn

Lean on Me
See page 8

Offering

Invitation
Offertory

Daphne Marquez and Milo Penner
Ain't No Mountain High Enough
By Nickolas Ashford & Valerie Simpson
Joycelyn Scott, alto sax

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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

Celebration of Communion

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Words of Institution
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Ministers and Youth
Confirmands

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: Amazing God, thank you for the beauty of this time when we gather as community in your Holy Wonder. Help us to join with all your beloved children to share your love, so that we can together be a rainbow of your hope in all places, through Jesus Christ in Love. Amen.

*Hymn

Turn the World Around
See page 9

*Benediction

Confirmands

Postlude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
By Ludwig von Beethoven, arr. Wolz

Dr. Dickey

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

The sanctuary flowers this morning are provided by Carmen Abbott and are in remembrance of her mother, Delphena.

Parish Concerns

Please remember in your prayers: The family and friends of Fran Holand, who passed away on April 28; 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!

06 Karen Miller

08 Ewan Scott

09 Jonathan Malleis-Sternberg, Bethany Morales, Cori Beth O' Keefe,
Scott Ramsay

11 Michael Powers

Circle of Friends
By Jim Manley

Come and sit together in a circle of friends.
Be at home, be at peace, be at rest.
Come and sit together in a circle of friends,
Sitting in a circle is best.

Chorus:
Laugh, cry, live, die,
Hello, goodbye,
And God make us a circle of friends.

Somewhere it is evening and the woods fill up with moonlight,
The creatures make their music and the word is on the wind.
There's a fire in the clearing and the voices you are hearing
Are the singing of a circle of friends.

Once when it was night and he sat with them at supper.
He told them that this feast was the beginning and the end.
And he made the bread his body and he made the wine his blood,
And he gave them to his circle of friends.

Somewhere it is morning and the church fills up with sunlight,
The Spirit's in the music and the word is on the wind.
There is fire on the table and the bread and wine are speaking,
And God makes us a circle of friends.

Lean on Me
By Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain, we all have sorrow.
But if we are wise,
We know that there's always tomorrow.

Lean on me when you're not strong
I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show.

Lean on me when you're not strong
I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

You just call on me, brother/sister/sibling, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on.
I just might have a problem that you'll understand,
We all need somebody to lean on.

Lean on me when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry, I'm right up the road.
I'll share your load, if you just call me.

Lean on me when you're not strong
I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

Turn the World Around
By Harry Belafonte

We come from the water, cool refreshing water
Go back to the water, turn the world around
We come from the water, cool refreshing water
Go back to the water, turn the world around

Chorus:

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh Turn the World Around! (2x)

We come from the fire, all of us the fire
Go back to the fire, turn the world around
We come from the fire, all of us the fire
Go back to the fire, turn the world around

We come from the mountain, way up on the mountain
Go back to the mountain, turn the world around
We come from the mountain, way up on the mountain
Go back to the mountain, turn the world around

We come from the spirit, all of us the spirit
Only can the spirit turn the world around
We come from the spirit, all of us the spirit
Only can the spirit turn the world around

We all seek a new world, all of us a new world
When we find a new world, turn the world around
We all seek a new world, all of us a new world
When we find a new world, turn the world around

This Week at First Church

Sunday, May 5

- 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 & Confirmation – Sanctuary
& YouTube.com/1stChurch
Sunday School: K-2nd Grades – Vaughn 1; 3rd-5th Grades –
Klar 1
11 AM Confirmation Sunday Reception – Patterson Hall
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
11:30 AM Board of Cultural Arts – Pownall Room
Board of Parish Life – Klar 3
Board of Social Justice & Outreach – Booth Chapel
Board of Stewardship & Finance – Klar 2 & Zoom
12 PM Board of Christian Education – Ramsay Dining Room
1:30 PM Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

Monday, May 6

- 10 AM Special Archives Group gathering – Koinonia Room
7 PM South Coast Chorale Rehearsal – Ramsay Dining Room

Tuesday, May 7

- 4 PM DAYS: Junior League of LB – Klar 3 & Merritt Kitchen
6 PM DAYS Leaders LB – Klar 2 & 3
6:30 PM Budget Committee Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, May 8

- 7 PM Sacred Practices – Sacred Space

Thursday, May 9

- 5 PM Jubellance Rehearsal – Bell Room
6 PM Bellissimo Rehearsal – Bell Room
DAYS Leaders LB
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Saturday, May 11

- 9:30 AM Golf Group – Off-site
10 AM Urban Community Outreach Food Drive – Maple Way Alley
5:30 PM Serendipity Supper – Off-site
7 PM Social Justice Book Club – Zoom

Sunday, May 12

- 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.
 11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
 1:30 PM Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall





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Randel King

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Steve Crow

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Social Justice and Outreach:

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COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Curtis Heard

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Bob Kalayjian

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pmsternberg@firstchurchlb.org

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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

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Megan O'Toole, Soprano Soloist

Lisa Bode Heard, Alto Soloist

Charlie Carlos, Tenor Soloist

George Carson, Bass Soloist

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