



First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 24, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

*Please join in where words are shown in bold type.
Please stand if you are able for items with an asterisk*.*

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.

Centering ourselves with the sound of the chime and the Land Acknowledgement

Prelude "There Is a Spirit That Delights to Do No Evil..." Dr. Marc Dickey
from A Quaker Reader, Ned Rorem

Acolytes: Deven and Zoe Dasgupta-Tsinikas

Invocation The Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg

***Call to Celebration** Rev. Malleis-Sternberg and The Rev. Wally Hoeger

One: We are given water to renew our arid paths.

Many: We are given fire to ignite our dreams.

One: We are given winds to move us towards our visions.

Many: We are given the earth in which we plant seeds of hope.

One: Through the pieces of Creation, we see the steadfast presence of God;

Many: the stirring of the Spirit, we can no longer stand still.

One: Come, let us worship!

***Processional Hymn, No. 270** Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song
See Page 7

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Hoeger

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

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Anthem

A Sun-Day Hymn

Sanctuary Choir

words by Oliver Wendell Holmes, music by Z. Randall Stroope

The children are invited to Sunday School.

Scripture

Acts 2:1-12

Kathy Wallace-Phelps

From the Common English Bible, adapted

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all

surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions.

Your elders will dream dreams. Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon will be changed into blood, before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Contemporary Reading from "Teaching a Stone to Talk" Kathy Wallace-Phelps
by Annie Dillard

On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.

Special Music Take Me to the World Megan O'Toole, vocalist
from Evening Primrose by Stephen Sondheim Dr. Dickey, piano

Sermon Spirit, Loosed Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Hymn, No. 293 Sweet, Sweet Spirit
See Page 8

Prayers of the People Rev. Hoeger
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

Kathy Wallace-Phelps

Offertory

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling (In Babilone)
Kristina Langlois

Dr. Dickey

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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**

***Recessional Hymn, No. 177** God of Change and Glory
See Page 10

***Benediction**

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

***Choral Response**

Hallelujah
Abraham Maraire

Sanctuary Choir

Postlude Hymn Prelude on "Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire" Dr. Dickey
Sarum plainsong, mode VIII, set by Wilbur Held

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 provided by Heather Chambers in memory of Steve Chambers and all the “behind the scenes” people who like to help wherever possible with small tasks.

Parish Concerns

Please remember in your prayers: Carole Gissel and family; Victoria Bryant and family; Sam Kirk and family; Kirsten Pickus; Jim Heard; Trisha Pappas; Charlotte Waldo; 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.

Birthdays This Week – Happy Birthday!

24 - Ken Schoenfelder
25 - Anne Keller

27 - Michel Guy, Evie Legeros,
Alima Sherman
29 - Malari Barber-Swierenga

This Week at First Church

Sunday, May 24

8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room
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 & [YouTube.com/1stchurch](https://www.youtube.com/1stchurch)
Sunday School – Klar 1, Klar 3, Sacred Space & High School Room
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
11:30 AM Scholarship Committee Meeting – Sr. High Room
1:30 PM UCO Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

Monday, May 25 – Church Closed – Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26

10:00 AM Handmakers Small Group – Koinonia Room
7:00 PM Church Council Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, May 28

- 5:00 PM Jubellance Rehearsal – Bell Room
DAYS Leaders LB – Ramsay Dining Room
6:00 PM Bellissimo Rehearsal – Bell Room
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Friday, May 29

- 1:30 PM DAYS Grocery Program – Patterson Hall & Potholder Lot

Saturday, May 30

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

Sunday, May 31

- 8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room
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 & Confirmation – Sanctuary &
[YouTube.com/1stchurch](https://www.youtube.com/1stchurch) - Children and Youth will remain in the Service
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Bell Room
11:30 AM In-Betweeners Small Group Meeting – Pownall Room
Board of Christian Education Meeting – Sr. High Room
Board of Cultural Arts Meeting – Pownall Room & Zoom
Board of Parish Life Meeting – Booth Chapel
Board of Social Justice and Outreach Meeting – Klar 3 & Zoom
Board of Stewardship and Finance Meeting – Klar 2
1:30 PM UCO Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

270

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

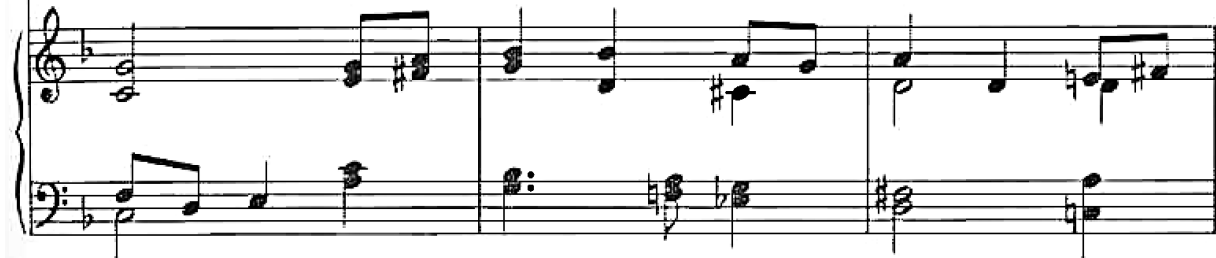
Isa. 38:14; Rom. 8:26; 12:4-5; John 15:1-5



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might:
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare:



2 Cor. 3:17-5:5

Doris Akers, 1962; alt.

Slowly

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
 2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
 know that Spir - it's full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
 one to prof - it when you say, "I am

to Refrain

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
 going to stay with Je - sus all the way."


This is one of the most popular gospel songs from the corpus of African-American songwriters who emerged during the golden age of gospel (1930-1969). Although this era was dominated by the Baptists, Doris Akers had Methodist roots.

Tune: SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
 9.11.9.11. with refrain
 Doris Akers, 1962

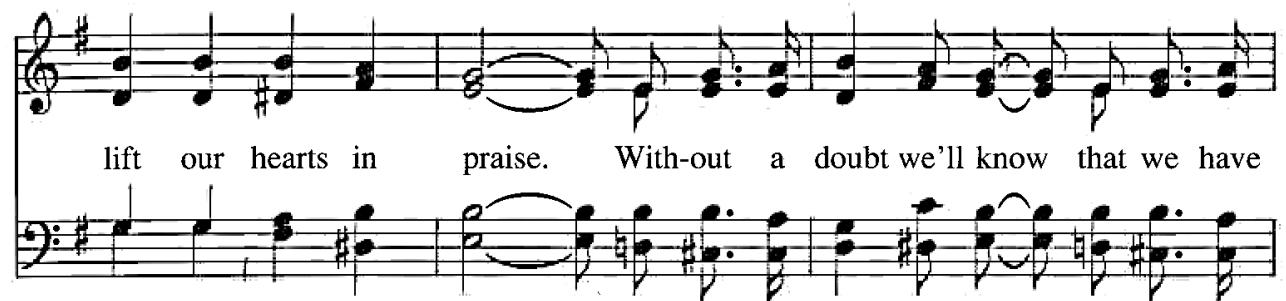
Refrain



Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here



with us, fill-ing us with your love; And for these bless-ings we



lift our hearts in praise. With-out a doubt we'll know that we have



been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

177

God of Change and Glory

1 Cor. 12:4-27

Al Carmines, 1973

1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
 3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
 you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
 you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.

In the midst of chang - ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
 As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
 This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.

Al Carmines, composer, playwright, performer, and teacher, has served as minister for two United Church of Christ congregations in New York City. This hymn, commissioned in 1973, was one of the first modern texts to claim diversity as a gift from God.

Tune: KATHERINE 6.5.6.5.7.7.
 Al Carmines, 1973

EPIPHANY SEASON

C F C F G

In our dif - fer - ence is bless-ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of music. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

C F G

one Giv-er, one Word, one Spir-it, one God known in man-y ways,

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of music. The treble staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

F C G7 C

hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of music. The treble staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.



First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Curtis Heard

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

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pmsternberg@firstchurchlb.org
Rev. Wally Hoeger, Associate Minister
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MUSIC STAFF

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