



First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 31, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.

CONFIRMATION 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

Ringling the Tibetan Bowl

Tyler Henderson

Land Acknowledgement

Benjamin Shimanek

Prelude

Rejoice and Ring Praises!
Robert B. Allen

Jubellance

Acolytes: Josephine and Bethany Morales

Invocation

The Rev. Wally Hoeger

***Call to Celebration**

Donovan Hyman and Allie Hyman

Words taken from the Confirmands Statements of Faith

One: We come together today as a community of faith — a place where it is okay to believe something else too, okay to have differing opinions, okay to accept yourself for who you are.

Many: We come to be part of something loving — a changing group made up of anyone and everyone.

One: We don't always see God — but we feel God. We feel love and kindness, and yes, pain and sadness too, because there can be no compassion without suffering. It's all part of life.

One: God can be anyone and anything for everyone. Sometimes felt in time, sometimes not. Wise and old. Helpful. Looked up to. An energy that connects people and the world together.

Many: We come because we feel something watching over us.

One: We come with our dreams — the ones that haunt our minds every second of every day. We come with our questions, our doubts, our honest encounters with the sacred.

Many: We believe a life is a story, sacred to everyone.

One: We come because love is love — for neighbors near and far, for those treated unfairly, for those who need us to stand up and show up. We are a group that walks in the pride parade. A group of acceptance.

Many: We come to try to make the world kinder and fairer for everyone.

One: We come not with all the answers — and some of us don't know if we want the answers either. But we come with what is true for us, right now, in this moment. And we come knowing these differences between our perspectives are neither bad nor good — they are a learning experience.

Many: We believe in happy endings and new chapters. We believe in forgiveness and fairness. We believe that even laughing and having fun with someone can really affect them in a positive way. We are here. We belong. Let us worship together.

*Hymn

One Spirit of Love
See Page 9

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg

Passing of the Peace

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 Children - Teacher and Volunteer Recognition Tracy Halter-Balin

Anthem

A Beautiful Thing
words by Hadewijch of Antwerp, 13th cent.
music by Jane Marshall

Sanctuary Choir

Make your service of love a beautiful thing: want nothing else, fear nothing else, and let love be free to become what love truly is. Work to this end every moment without sparing. Always be fervent in humility and serve with wisdom. Make your pilgrimage with beauty and purity, without sadness or any hindrance of willfulness, in a sweet spirit of peace and joy.

Service of Confirmation

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg and Rev. Hoeger

Benjamin Shimanek, 7th grade
Allie Hyman, 8th grade
Hannah Pearce, 8th grade
Tyler Henderson, 9th grade

Leo Hyman, 10th grade
Donovan Hyman, 10th grade
Anna Shimanek, 9th grade

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:3-13
Common English Bible

Hannah Pearce

So I want to make it clear to you that no one says, "Jesus is cursed!" when speaking by God's Spirit, and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God

who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good. A word of wisdom is given by the Spirit to one person, a word of knowledge to another according to the same Spirit, faith to still another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit, performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another, the ability to tell spirits apart to another, different kinds of tongues to another, and the interpretation of the tongues to another. All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who gives what the spirit wants to each person.

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink.

Contemporary Reading

“Why?”
Anna Shimanek

Anna Shimanek

Special Music

Try
Colbie Caillat

Anna Shimanek

Storytime

Rev. Hoeger

Hymn

Turn the World Around
Harry Belafonte

We come from the water,
Cool, refreshing water,
Go back to the water,
Turn the world around! (Repeat)

CHORUS:

Oh oh, oh oh oh oh,
Oh oh, turn the world around! (Repeat)

We come from the fire,
All of us the fire,
Go back to the fire,
Turn the world around! (Repeat)

We come from the mountain,
Way up on the mountain,
Go back to the mountain,

Turn the world around. (Repeat)

We come from the Spirit,
All of us the Spirit,
Only can the Spirit,
Turn the world around. (Repeat)

We all seek a new world,
All of us a new world,
When we find a new world,
Turn the world around. (Repeat)

Prayers of the People
Our Common Prayer

Allie Hyman and Anna Shimanek

**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

Parents of the Confirmands

Offertory

“Someone Else’s Story”
from *Chess*

Jade Dodgen

Music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus
Lyrics by Tim Rice

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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**

Gidget Williams

***Hymn**

Pass it On

Words & music by Kurt Kaiser

It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love, Once you've experienced it
You spread God's love to everyone, You want to pass it on

What a wonderous time is spring When all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love, Once you've experienced it.
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, You want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend. This happiness that I've found
You can depend on God. It matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top - Praise God!
I want the world to know the God of Love has come to me
I want to pass it on

***Benediction**

Postlude

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 Steve Crow in honor of his sister who turns 90 next week. Betty's family gathered in McCall, ID over the Memorial Day weekend to start the celebration!

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!

01 - Harrison Stangle-Smith
02 - Grant Nichol
04 - Anna Johnson

05 - Benjamin Shimanek,
Jessica Smith

This Week at First Church

Sunday, May 31

8:30 AM Jubellance Rehearsal - Sanctuary
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 - Children and Youth will remain in the Service
11:15 AM Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Sanctuary
11:30 AM Confirmation Reception - Koinonia Room
11:45 AM 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
12:00 PM In-Betweeners - Sr. High Room
1:30 PM UCO Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

Monday, June 1

10:00 AM Archives Group – Ramsay Dining Room

Tuesday, June 2

10:00 AM Handmakers Small Group – Koinonia Room
6:00 PM Personnel Committee Meeting - Zoom
7:00 PM Building and Safety Committee Meeting - Zoom

Wednesday, June 3

7:00 PM Diaconate Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, June 4

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, June 5

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

6:00 PM Parent's Night Out

PRISM Small Group Meeting – Sacred Space

Saturday, June 6

9:30 AM Golf Group – Off-site at a local golf course

10:00 AM UCO Food Drive – Maple Way Alley

2:30 PM Memorial Service – Sanctuary, Courtyard and Patterson Hall

Sunday, June 7

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)

Sunday School – Klar 1, Klar 3, Sacred Space & High School Room

1:00 PM Young People's Concert & Ice Cream Social – Sanctuary and Courtyard

1:30 PM UCO Drop-In Center – Patterson Hall

One Spirit of Love

♩ = 89

Muted strum
Light Reggae Feel

Paul B. Svenson



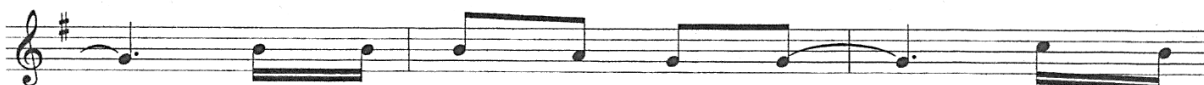
1. Ma - ny are the won - ders of God ma - ny
2. Some will be the tea - chers of life some the
3. Li - ving as the bo - dy of Christ and the



doors o - pen wide ma - ny roads that are still un -
prea - chers of love some the fa - thers and some the
heart of the earth and the hands that will break new



tra - veled Ma - ny are the gifts that we share
mo - thers Some will be the ones who will care
aro - und Cel - e - brate the gifts from with - in



ma - ny bur - dens we bear ma - ny
some will li - sten and share serv - ing
now its time to be - gin God's -



my - ster - ies still un - ra - veled
God as they serve each - o - ther
peo - ple can turn the world a - rou - nd now!



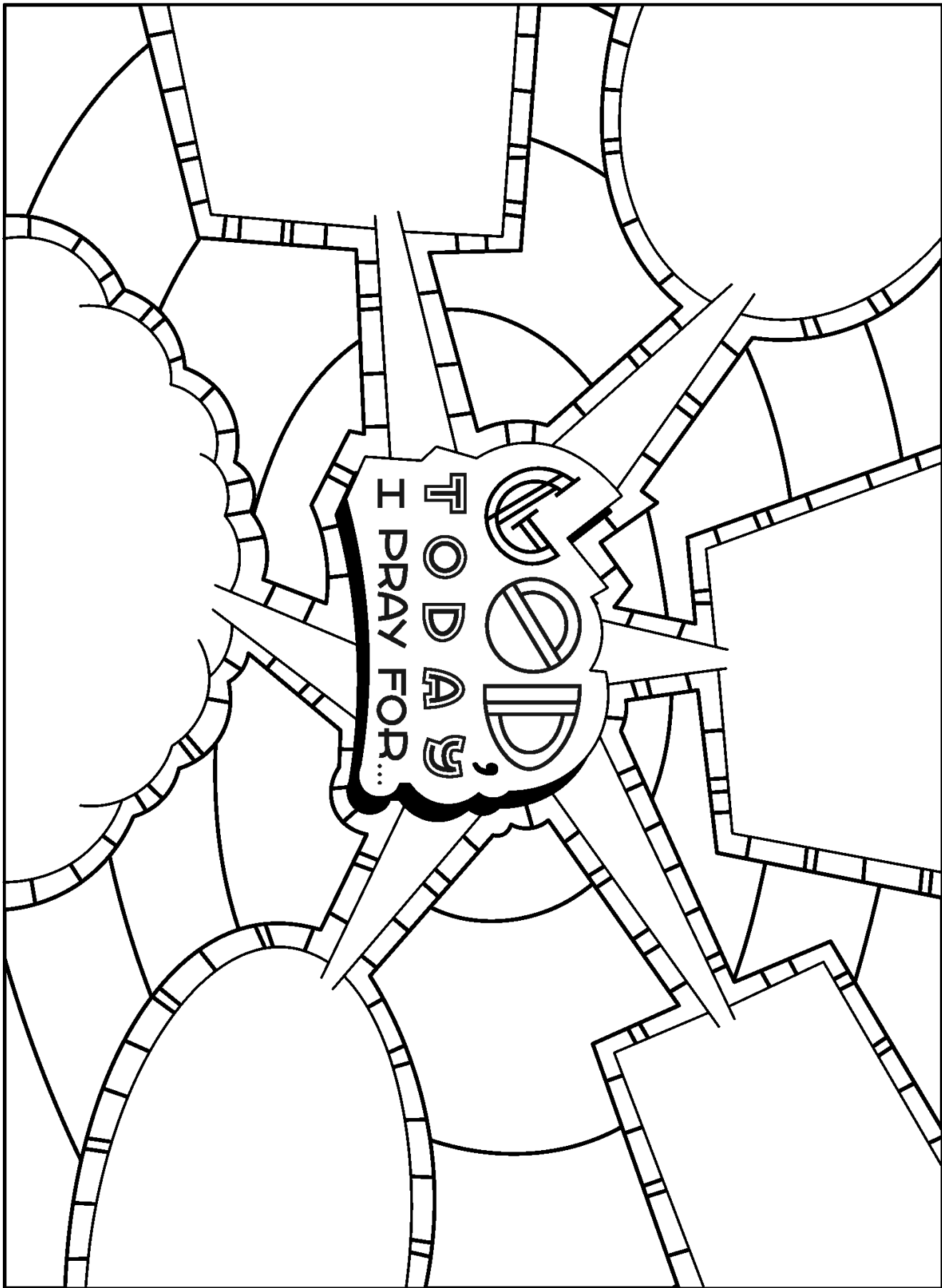
CHORUS Ma - ny gifts One spi - rit of love one spi - rit of love



Ma - ny gifts One spi - rit of love one spi - rit of love



1 Thessalonians 3:12 • illustratedchildrensministry.com



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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:

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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

Rev. Wally Hoeger, Associate Minister

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