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
Valse romantique
by Claude Debussy

Curtis Heard

*Call to Reflection and Celebration

The Rev. Anne Hoffmann and the Rev. Tom Emanuel

One: It is the New Year. A time to repack our bags, rethink our gear,
reimagine the next steps and start down the road.

MANY: Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a
quiet day, I can hear her breathing. (Talk of War, Arundhati Roy)
One: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:18-19)

MANY: Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.

One: “You will have to do without pocket handkerchiefs, and a great many other things, before we reach our journey’s end, Bilbo Baggins. You were born to the rolling hills and little rivers of the Shire, but home is now behind you. The world is ahead.” (Gandalf, The Fellowship of the Ring, J.R.R. Tolkien)

MANY: Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.

One: No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out, and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. (Luke 5:37-38)

MANY: Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.

One: Nostalgia is not an immersion in the past, nostalgia is the first annunciation that the past as we know it is coming to an end. (Consolations, David Whyte)

MANY: Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.

Prayer of Invocation

*Gathering Song

Morning Has Broken

See page 8

*Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Rev. Emanuel
In speaking of this desire for our own far off country, which we find in ourselves even now, I feel a certain shyness. I am almost committing an indecency. I am trying to rip open the inconsolable secret in each one of you— the secret which hurts so much that you take your revenge on it by calling it names like Nostalgia and Romanticism and Adolescence; the secret also which pierces with such sweetness that when, in very intimate conversation, the mention of it becomes imminent, we grow awkward and affect to laugh at ourselves; the secret we cannot hide and cannot tell, though we desire to do both. We cannot tell it because it is a desire for something that has never actually appeared in our experience. We cannot hide it because our experience is constantly suggesting it, and we betray ourselves like lovers at
the mention of a name. Our commonest expedient is to call it beauty and behave as if that had settled the matter. Wordsworth’s expedient was to identify it with certain moments in his own past. But all this is a cheat. If Wordsworth had gone back to those moments in the past, he would not have found the thing itself, but only the reminder of it; what he remembered would turn out to be itself a remembering. The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, it only came through them, and what came through them was longing. These things—the beauty, the memory of our own past—are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshipers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.

Scripture

Isaiah 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Homily

Rev. Hoffmann
Our Common Prayer

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment’s bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others’ faults. Help us not forget our Source, Yet free us from not being in the Present. From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering. Amen - May our future actions grow from here!

by Mark Berry, Emerging Church Movement
Offering
The Invitation
Rev. Hoffmann
Offertory
Fantastic Dance #2
by Dmitri Shostakovich
Curtis Heard

Scan above for our secure online donation site.

*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 Thanksgiving
Rev. Emanuel

Holy Communion
Rev. Hoffmann and Rev. Emanuel

*Sending Song #125, vv. 1 & 3
Angels We Have Heard on High
See page 9

*Benediction
Rev. Hoffmann

Postlude
Waltz, Op. 64, No. 1
by Frederic Chopin

Community Life Announcements
See the announcement playlist on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEBlwzL0DILYFdhvVgdqhVViSl4chwp

The sanctuary flowers today are provided by Roger Reid and are in commemoration of the lives of Rev. Richard Grauman’s parents, Elizabeth and Harold, who gave encouragement for his efforts and work.
2022 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your offering envelopes for 2022 in the narthex. If you did not request envelopes but would like to have them, contact Ruth Warkentin in the church office.

Parish Concerns

Please remember Ruth Keller; Lindsey Nelson’s friend Heather Bouchard and her mother Karin; Jeff Gholson (cards welcome, no calls please).

Birthdays This Week

2  Judy Dodgen, Debra Moore
4  Steve Crow
5  Jon Boyden, Jim Segura

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.
Morning Has Broken

1. Morning has broken like the first morning, black-bird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the dew-fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet one light Eden saw play! Praise with elevation, praise every morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass. morning, God's recreation of the new day!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun-lit from heaven, like the first

3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931
MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Words © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon, used by permission of Harold Ober Associates; arr. © 1987 CRC Publications
Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French carol

Luke 2:15

St. 4, “Carols Old and Carols New,” Boston, 1916; alt.

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this jubilee? Why your joyuous strains prolong?
3 Come to Beth-le-hem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
4 See the babe in man-ger laid whom the choirs of angels praise;

And the moun-tains in re- ply, echo back their joy- ous strains.
Say what may the tid- ings be, which in- spire your heaven-ly song.
Come a-dore on bend-ed knee, God, our world now en- ter-ing.
Mar-y, Jo-seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Glo- ria

in ex-cel-sis De-o, Glo

The earliest version of this anonymous French carol was first published in 1855. There have been numerous English translations since the 1860s, but the carol did not gain widespread ecumenical usage until the first half of the twentieth century.
- - - - - - - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o.
This Week at First Church

Sunday, January 2
8:45 am  Adult Education – Pownall Room & Zoom
10 am  Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & YouTube.com/1stChurch
11:30 am  Board of Social Justice and Outreach – Koinonia Room
1:30 pm  Board of Stewardship & Finance – Zoom
         Urban Community Outreach Drop-In Center – on-site
2 pm  Women’s Group – Zoom
5:30 pm  Youth Group – Koinonia Room

Tuesday, January 4
4 pm  DAYS Tutoring – Klar 1, 2, 3

Thursday, January 6
10 am – 1 pm  Rev. Tom’s Community Office Hours – Portfolio, 4th & Junipero
4 pm  DAYS Tutoring – Klar 1, 2, 3
5 pm  Jubellance Rehearsal – Youth Music Room
6 pm  Bellissimo Rehearsal – Youth Music Room
       DAYS Leaders Long Beach – Klar 1, 2, 3
7:30 pm  Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Saturday, January 8
10 am  Paddlers Group – offsite
       Urban Community Outreach Food Drive – Maple Way Alley
6 pm  Women’s Book Group – Zoom

Sunday, January 9
8:45 am  Adult Education – Pownall Room & Zoom
10 am  Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & YouTube.com/1stChurch
11:30 am  Beloved Bells Rehearsal – Patterson Hall
         Board of Cultural Arts – Koinonia Room
         Board of Parish Life – Pownall Room
12:30 pm  Board of Christian Education – Zoom
1:30 pm  Diaconate Board Meeting – Zoom
         Urban Community Outreach Drop-in Center – on-site
3 pm  Queer and Back Again: The Gospel According to J.R.R. Tolkein
CHURCH OFFICERS
Sara Schoenfelder
Moderator
Paul Boyd-Batstone
Vice Moderator
Steve Crow
Treasurer
Ruth Keller
Secretary

BOARD CHAIRS
Board of Christian Education:
Board of Cultural Arts:
Diaconate Board:
Board of Parish Life:
Board of Social Justice and Outreach:
Board of Stewardship and Finance:
   Pamela Chapin and Brad Wells

AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBERS
Pat Kalayjian, Kathleen O’Neal, Harold Sutherland

POET-IN-RESIDENCE
Tina Datsko de Sánchez

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE
Curtis Heard

HISTORIAN
Kathy Young

CLERGY
Anne Hoffmann, Interim Minister
Tom Emanuel, Associate Minister

CLERGY IN OUR COMMUNITY
Jerry Stinson, Senior Minister Emeritus
Katy Hyman, Program Coordinator for Palliative Care, Long Beach Memorial Medical Center
Laverne R. Joseph, Retired from Retirement Housing Foundation

MUSIC STAFF
Curtis Heard, Director of Music
Tracy Halter-Balin, Associate Director of Music and Youth
Marc Dickey, Organist

PROFESSIONAL STAFF
Tracy Halter-Balin, Interim Christian Education Director
Eric Peterson, Business Manager
Ruth Warkentin, Office Manager
Preston Andres, Custodian
Melody O'Keefe or Heather Chambers at Heather R. Chambers, CPA, Inc., Bookkeeper

241 Cedar Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802 • www.firstchurchlb.org
562-436-2256 • office@firstchurchlb.org