

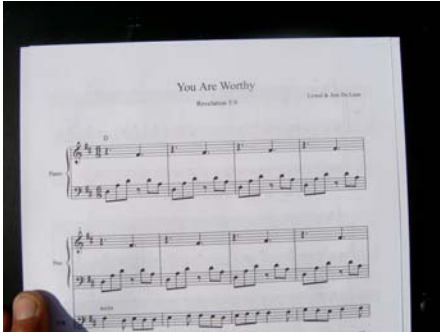


# The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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## Messenger Notes



Choir composition will be performed.

The **Community Bible Church Choir** in Huntington Beach, California, will be performing **Lionel & Joie De Leon's** first choral piece, *You Are Worthy*. Choir director and church pianist, **Roger Swibold**, made this possible. We are grateful for his donation of time and talent. This will be our first live performance of a choral piece and the beginning of a new direction for **Messenger Project**. The score can be downloaded free at [messengerproject.com](http://messengerproject.com).

Lionel and Joie's Youth Prison Ministry continues this month. They are scheduled to perform **Messenger** songs at **Dorothy Kirby Center** in the City of Commerce on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. We pray that God's word may shape the hearts of youth. Too many kids are being raised without the Bible and their souls suffer in solitude. The emptiness that every man has is our separation from God and a longing to know him intimately. Adam knew God and walked with him in the Garden of Eden. We were separated from God by our sins, just as Adam was when he sinned. God prepared a sacrifice to atone for our sins, so that we may be united with him again. All that is required is that we flee from sin and follow his Son. It's easier said than done, because our nature is sinful. But the Lord empowers us to do his will through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Praise God!

## The Great Seal of the United States

Creating an official symbol of the United States was a collaborative effort by America's Founding Fathers that began on July 4, 1776. Finalized six years later, on June 20, 1782, the Great Seal is a unique combination of natural elements and universal symbols that convey the original spirit of America.



**Front:** On the breast of the American Bald Eagle is a shield with thirteen vertical white and red stripes beneath a blue chief. In the eagle's right talon is an olive branch, and in his left a bundle of thirteen arrows. In his beak is a scroll inscribed with the motto *E Pluribus Unum*. Over the head of the eagle, a golden glory is breaking through a cloud, and surrounds a constellation of thirteen stars on an azure field.

**Back:** In the zenith of an unfinished pyramid is an eye in a triangle surrounded with a golden glory. Over the eye are the words *Annuet Coeptis*. On the base of the pyramid the numerical letters MDCCLXXVI, and underneath, the motto *Novus Ordo Seclorum*.

The eagle was originally introduced as a minor symbolic element. Charles Thomson chose the bald eagle as the centerpiece of the Great Seal. Thomson selected it possibly from the native Indian belief that eagles soar beyond sight to deliver prayers to God and return with his blessings. In its talons, the eagle carries symbols representing "the power of peace and war." To emphasize the priority of peace, Thomson placed the olive branch in the eagle's stronger right talon.

**Meaning:** The shield is composed of a blue chief and red/white vertical stripes. The thirteen stripes represent the states all joined, supporting a Chief, which represents Congress. The motto alludes to this union. The stripes are kept closely united by the Chief and the Chief depends upon that union and its strength for support, to denote the Confederacy of the United States of America and the preservation of their union through Congress. The colors of the stripes are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness and valor, and Blue, the color of the Chief signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice. The olive branch and arrows denote the power of peace and war, which is exclusively vested in Congress. The constellation denotes a new State taking its place and rank among other sovereign powers. The shield is on the breast of an American eagle without any other supporters to denote that the United States of America ought to rely on their own Virtue. The pyramid signifies strength and duration. The eye over it and the motto allude to God's favor of the American cause. The date underneath is the Declaration of Independence and the words under it signify the beginning of the new American Era, which begins from that date.

*E Pluribus Unum* means "**Out of many, one.**" *Annuet Coeptis* means "**He (God) favored our undertakings.**" *Novus Ordo Seclorum* means "**A new order of the ages.**"

In a world of kings and dictators, a new government "of the people, by the people and for the people" was created. May God continue to bless America and may America continue to honor and praise God with thanks for his many blessings upon our nation.