

the *light*  
of *joy*

First Congregational Church of Fresno  
The Big Red Church  
December 16, 2018

A warm welcome is extended to all, especially those who are worshipping at First Congregational Church of Fresno for the first time or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and enhances this time of celebration together.  
(\*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/Congregation/all)

## Our Gathering

Prelude "Lo, How a Rose" - R. Lind Scott Horton, organ  
"Good King Wenceslas" - A. L. Page Handbells  
"Welch Christmas Lullaby" - J. Hall

### Welcome, Direction And Announcements

Please sign and share the red registration pads found on the inside center aisle of each pew or text "Loop" to 559-425-4050 to stay in the loop with church events.

\* Call to Worship (in unison) Liturgist: Taylor Skjellerup

One: Let us prepare our hearts  
as we await the coming of our Lord,  
Many: Let us watch for the one who heard our cries  
and shouldered the suffering of our world,  
One: Let us anticipate the coming of Christ's eternal world  
with wholeness, reconciliation and plenty for all.  
Many: Let us wait in expectation for the day  
when God's glory is revealed in all its fullness.

\* Hymn of Praise "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn" #107, pew hymnal

## Our Shared Awareness

\* Opening Prayer Liturgist: Taylor Skjellerup

*In this season as the days grow shorter and the shadows lengthen, we gather in eager expectation for the Light of the World to dawn. Help us, God, to hear the warnings of the prophets, and to lay aside all the ways that lead toward death. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, and our spirits for the peace which you bring. During this hour of worship, send your Spirit to lead us into the light with hope, joy, and love. Amen.*

\* The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

\* Gloria Patri

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.

Special Music                      "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" - R. Mallory                      Handbells

## God is Still Speaking

A Reading from the Prophets:                      Isaiah 12:2-6                      Pg. 558 in your Pew Bible

A Time for Discovery:

*Children are invited to come up to the Chancel steps*

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still;  
let this be our song — no one stands alone,  
standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.  
(Sing twice)

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Lighting the Advent Wreath *The Candle of Joy*

One: Friends, let us not be afraid, God's joy is here!

Many: Let the light from this candle say to all that God's joy is coming  
on earth as it already is in heaven.

Sermon Texts                      Luke 3:7-18                      Pg. 834 in your Pew Bible

Sermon                      The Light of Joy                      Rev. Raygan Baker

\* Hymn                      "My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise"                      #106, pew hymnal

## The Beloved Community

The Sharing of Our Prayer Requests

Sung Call to Prayer

Lord, listen to your children praying:  
Lord send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying:  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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Prayers Of Joy And Concern



# Assisting in Today's Worship

Ushers: .....Harold Householder, Lester Leas,  
Richard van Wyhe, Donna van Wyhe  
Liturgist: .....Taylor Skjellerup  
Chancel Design: .....Jason Freeman

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## Sermon Notes



# First Congregational Church of Fresno

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

Office Hours: Monday – Friday

## Church Staff and Leadership

### Pastor

Rev. Raygan Baker  
rbaker@bigredchurch.org

### Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton  
shtulare@gmail.com

### Director of Facilities, Technology, and Communication

Kim Williams  
Office@bigredchurch.org

### Interim Coordinator of Caring Ministries

Gayle Thornton

### Covenanted Minister to Hinds Hospice

Rev. Stephanie Doss  
Grief Counselor  
sdoss@hindshospice.org

### Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministries

Scott Hancock  
Scott.bigredchurch@gmail.com

### Moderator

Scott Baucher  
sbaucher3@gmail.com

### Vice-Moderator

Robbyn Mosley  
nyelsom@comcast.net

### Caretaker

Pat Morales  
Patmorales40@gmail.com

### Superintendent of Facilities and Grounds

Sarkis Kglyan

### Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

### Coordinator of Nursery

Patsy Finster  
patsyfinster26@comcast.net

### Nursery Personnel

Zorayda Darce  
Chelsee Armsworthy  
Andrew Fennacy

### Nursery Assistant

Miranda Deis

### CFO

Lester Leas  
lesterle@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Peter Wall  
peterwall@gmail.com

### Ministry of Christian Education

Catherine Cooper

### Ministry of Worship

Bill May

### Ministry of Church Life

Paula Roberts

### Ministry of Resources

Jason Freeman

### Ministry of Community Outreach

Judy Oftedal



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO  
**BIGREDCHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# About First Congregational Church of Fresno

## Mission Statement

God calls the church into being.  
In response, we love God and each other.

- We provide a place in a changing world where the constancy of God's love and compassion is known through the example of Jesus Christ
- We celebrate our life together through ministries of prayer and worship, music and education, stewardship and outreach
- We share the stories of our faith and spiritual journeys
- We connect with the mysteries of God's grace, the miracle of restorative faith, and the power of ritual and myth
- We live with compassion for all God's creation
- We dispel isolation and alienation, witnessing to the joy of an open and affirming Christian life

Strengthened and transformed by our faith,  
we go out into the wider community offering  
the message of hope and reconciliation to all  
people.

## Open & Affirming Statement

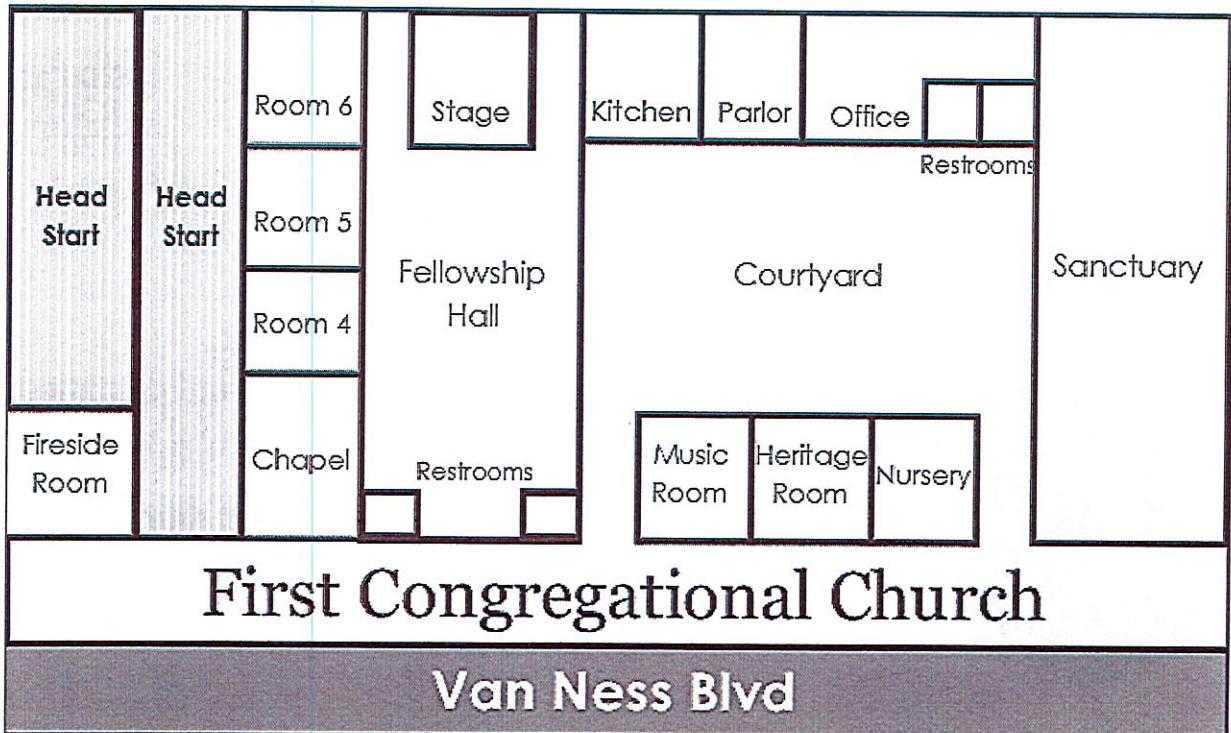
We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion, and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, and physical and mental ability, race, age, and gender.

As Christians, we experience  
God's reconciling love.

In response, we stand with those who suffer  
discrimination, isolation, and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate  
fully in our church's life and ministry.

We celebrate the variety of talents and  
perspectives which flow into our spiritual  
community, continuing to enrich us in ways we  
could not have predicted or envisioned.



# This Week at the Big Red Church

<b>Sunday, December 16</b>		
Bible Study	Fireside Room	8:30 am
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 am
Pantry Meeting	Parlor	11:45 am
Children's Musical Rehearsal	Sunday School	11:15 am
A Celebration of Christmas	Sanctuary	3:00 pm
<b>Monday, December 17</b>		
Movers and Shakers Yoga	Room 1	5:00 pm
<b>Tuesday, December 18</b>		
Council Meeting	Parlor	6:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, December 19</b>		
Ooooby	Fellowship Hall	3:00–6:00 pm
Living Through Transitions	Fireside Room	3:00 pm
Movers and Shakers Yoga	Room 1	5:00 pm
Niners	Parlor	7:00 pm
Choir Practice	Sanctuary	7:00 pm
<b>Friday, December 21</b>		
Longest Night Service	Minturn Chapel	5:00 pm
<b>Saturday, December 22</b>		
Youth Group Baking Bread	Kitchen	10:00 am
Children's musical dress rehearsal	Sanctuary	10:00
<b>Sunday, December 23</b>		
Bible Study	Fireside Room	8:30 am
Children's Musical Service		
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 am
Youth Group Monkey Bread Sale	Fellowship Hall	11:30 am
Naomi's House Gift Wrapping	Fellowship Hall	11:30 am

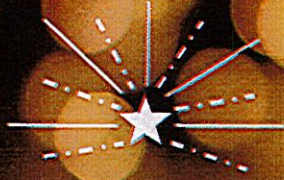


We are **BOLD** in our faith in Jesus Christ.  
 We are **PROUD** of our inclusive history and tradition.  
 We are **PROGRESSIVE** because we are working towards  
**a just world  
 for all.**



# Christmas Eve

at the *Big Red Church*




Monday, December 24, 2018

Family Service 4:00 pm  
Lessons and Carols 9:00 pm



First Congregational Church of Fresno  
2131 N Van Ness Boulevard



## The Longest Night

### Blue Christmas Service

Friday, December 21

5:00 pm  
Minturn Chapel

First Congregational Church of Fresno  
2131 N. Van Ness Boulevard  
Fresno, CA 93704  
559-227-8489 | [www.bigredchurch.org](http://www.bigredchurch.org)

BIG RED CHURCH

# YOUTH GROUP

December



**Advent Festival**  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Making Wreaths.  
Cookie Decorating.  
All the Crafts.  
Join the fun!

December 2




**Candy Cane Lane  
Walking Night**  
Merry & Bright!  
Meet at church at 5:45

December 11



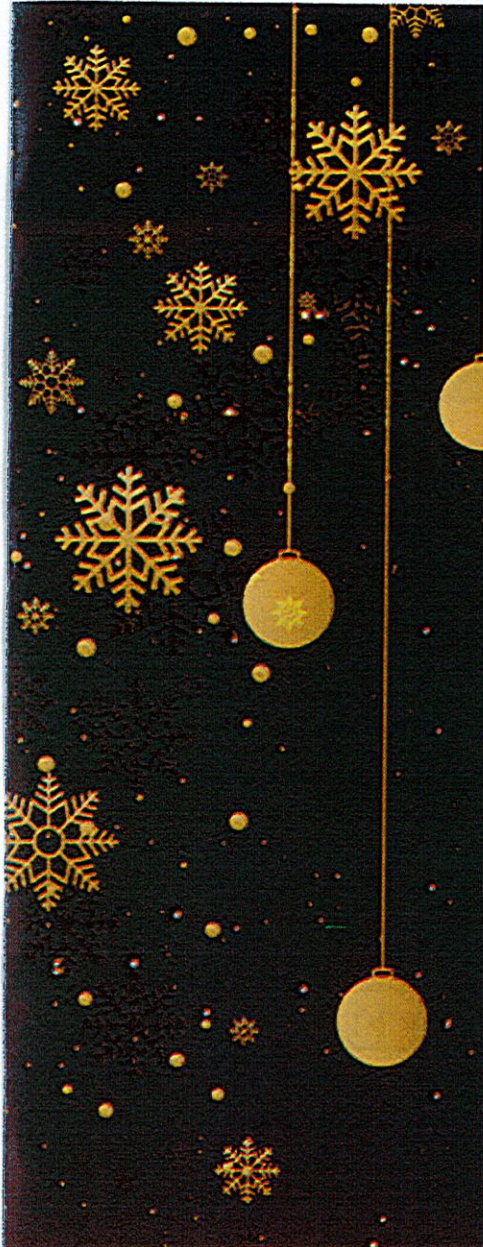
**Youth Group  
Monkey Bread  
Fundraiser**  
Mini and  
Large Loaves  
Mini Loaf: \$5  
Large Loaf: \$10

December 23



**Fundraiser  
Baking and  
Prep day**  
10:00 am  
Make 100 loaves of  
delicious cinnamon monkey  
bread? No problem!

December 22



*A Celebration  
of  
Christmas*

Chancel Choir  
Handbell Choir  
&  
Musicians of  
First Congregational Church

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 p.m.

**First Congregational Church of Fresno**

*"The Big Red Church"*

2131 N. Van Ness Boulevard - Fresno, CA 93704

559.227.8489

**Free Concert - Free-will offering to benefit Casavant Pipe Organ**



**“LET’S EAT OUT”  
FUNDRAISER NIGHT**

**JOIN US AT THE FRESNO OLD SPAGHETTI  
FACTORY ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 2019**

**LUNCH: 11:30AM-2:30PM**

**DINNER: 4:30PM-9:00PM**

**TO RAISE MONEY FOR**

**“THE BIG RED CHURCH”**

**FIRST CONGREGATION CHURCH OF FRESNO.**

**THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY WILL DONATE  
15% OF YOUR DINNER’S PROCEEDS TO  
FIRST CONGREGATION CHURCH OF FRESNO**

**WHEN YOU PRESENT THIS FLYER. ★**

**JOIN US, “LET’S EAT OUT” AND**

**HELP THEM RAISE MONEY!**

**\*THIS FLYER MUST BE PRESENTED OR SHOWN ON YOUR PHONE  
DURING YOUR VISIT IN ORDER FOR FIRST CONGREGATION  
CHURCH OF FRESNO TO RECEIVE PROCEEDS. DINE-IN ONLY.  
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED.**

**1610 E SHAW AVE • (559) 222-1066**

# Christmas Flowers

**The Ministry of Worship is offering  
poinsettias as our Christmas altar flower.**

**Cost is \$10 per plant, which will come in a 6 inch pot.  
Order deadline is Wednesday, December 19.**

**In memory of: -----**

**In honor of: -----**

**Your name: -----**

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# Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5

Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

*Chords: G, Am7, G/B, C, D, G/B, C, Am7, D7, G, Am7, G/B, C, D, G/B, Am7, D, C, G*

*Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.*

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.  
 Marty Haugen, 1983

D D/F# G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing  
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G 1-3 G/B C 4 G/B C G

lives now in - side us for ev - er. . . .  
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .  
 weap - ons are bro - ken a - sun - der. . . .  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry. . . .

## My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

106

Ruth Duck, 1985

Luke 1:46-55

A D A/E E7 A

1 My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,  
 2 The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.  
 3 The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,

A D A/E E7 A

Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.  
 The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.  
 for God has come in power to save, to set all peo - ple free.

E A D E7 A E

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace  
 The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.  
 Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,

A D A/E E7 A

To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.  
 The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.  
 Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

*The "Magnificat," a traditional text for evening prayer as well as Advent, is paraphrased here by Ruth Duck. She developed it to make the ancient rite of evening prayer available to her own worshipping communities.*

Tune: MARIAS LOVSÅNG C.M.D.

*Swedish folk melody*

Alternate tunes: ELLACOMBE, TALLIS' THIRD

# People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more  
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day:  
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928  
 MUSIC: Traditional French carol; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928

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 Oxford University Press

BESANÇON  
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♩ = 62-70

