

mud.

First Congregational Church of Fresno  
The Big Red Church  
March 22, 2020  
Rev. Raygan Baker

Welcome! Thank you for worshipping with us online! The Big Red Church is **BOLD** in our faith in Jesus Christ, **PROUD** of our tradition and history of inclusion, and **PROGRESSIVE** in our work towards a just world for all. If you would like to keep in touch with us, just text "loop" to 559-425-4050 and fill out the Connect Card.

(\*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/**Congregation/all**)

## Prelude

*For the time during the prelude, we invite you to be in prayer.*

## Welcome

## Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Kymberly Lindsey

*Holy One,  
Bridger of Distance,  
Connector of Beings,  
hear our prayer....*

*In the midst  
of non-stop news stories  
about illness and scarcity,  
press conferences and cancellations...  
grant us quiet in our minds.*

*In the midst  
of heightened anxiety  
about caregivers and caregiving,  
about health and hygiene,  
grant us calm in our hearts.*

*In the midst  
of opposing views:  
close doors or stay open,  
reach out or hunker down...  
grant us peace in our spirits.*

*In the midst  
of distance  
in this faith community, in our families,  
and in all our relationships with others...  
grant us connection in our separation.*

*In the midst  
of our lives:  
our gratitudes and concerns,  
our hopes and longings...*

*grant us an abiding sense of Your comfort  
in our worship, and in all that  
tomorrow holds, Amen.*

**Hymn** "For the Beauty of the Earth" Insert

### **Time for Discovery**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

**Scripture Reading:** John 9:1-41 Liturgist: Kimberly Lindsey

**Homily** "Mud" Rev. Raygan Baker

**Hymn** "Amazing Grace" Insert

#### **The Sharing of our Prayer Requests**

[Please post your prayer requests in comments]

#### **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.

1973, Hope, Publishing CO., All rights reserved.  
OneLicense.net License #A-711732

#### **Prayers of the People**

**Invitation to Generosity** Liturgist: Kimberly Lindsey

*More information about giving at the Big Red Church [here](#).*

**Meditation** "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" - P. Rodriguez

## Blessing our Offerings

*Faithful God,  
you put your gifts in our hands  
for such a time as this.  
Bless the gifts we commit to your work today  
for the relief and deliverance of your people in need.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## \* Blessing

## \* Sung Benediction

Go now in peace, never be afraid;  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;  
know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world will see  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.

1988, Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved.  
OneLicense.net License # A-711732

# For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, *Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.*

St. 4, *Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

## Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

*Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain

*Conrad Kocher, 1838*

*Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861*

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.*

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.  
 (NEW BRITAIN)  
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829  
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

# How To Make Your First Givelify Donation

1 Download the free Givelify app



2 Locate our church

3 Tap the Give button

4 Tap an amount

5 Select an envelope

6 Tap Give Now

7 Create your account

8 Securely enter your payment information

9 Complete your donation

➔ Next time you use Givelify, you can save time with the **1-TAP GIVE NOW** button

