

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.

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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.

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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

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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

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