

**a first**

# Step

**First Congregational Church of Fresno**

**The Big Red Church**

**July 12, 2020**

**Special Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Diane Weible,**

***Conference Minister,***

***The Northern California Nevada Conference***

***of The United Church of Christ***

2131 N Van Ness Boulevard | Fresno, CA 93706

559.227.8489 [www.bigredchurch.org](http://www.bigredchurch.org)

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. While in the Zoom Chat, please greet one another! Your microphones will be muted throughout the service to help improve the sound quality of the livestream.

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

**Prelude** Fugue in A major, opus 6, no.3 - G.F. Handel Scott Horton, organ

**Welcome** Rev. Raygan Baker

**Opening Prayer** Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

*Loving God,  
You created life in us and all around us. We gather together in Your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.*

**Hymn** "Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good" Insert

**Scripture Reading** Genesis 25:19-34 Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

### Time for Discovery

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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**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

**Sermon** "A First Step" The Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

**Hymn** "Beautiful Jesus" Insert

### Sharing 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 the People

**Invitation to Generosity and Blessing the Offerings** Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

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

## **Blessing and Sung Benediction**

(We turn toward the center aisle and each other as a sign of mutual blessing.)

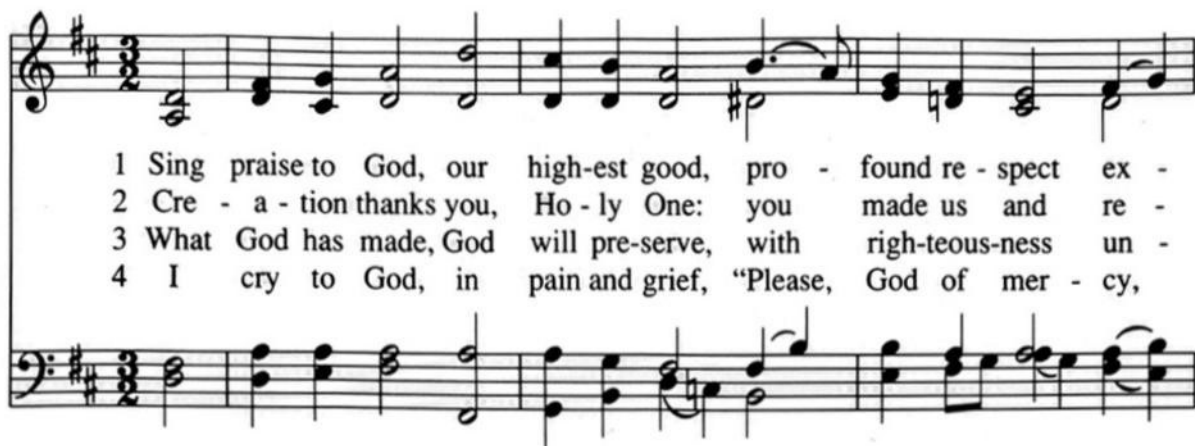
Go now in peace, never be afraid;  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;  
know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world will see  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go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

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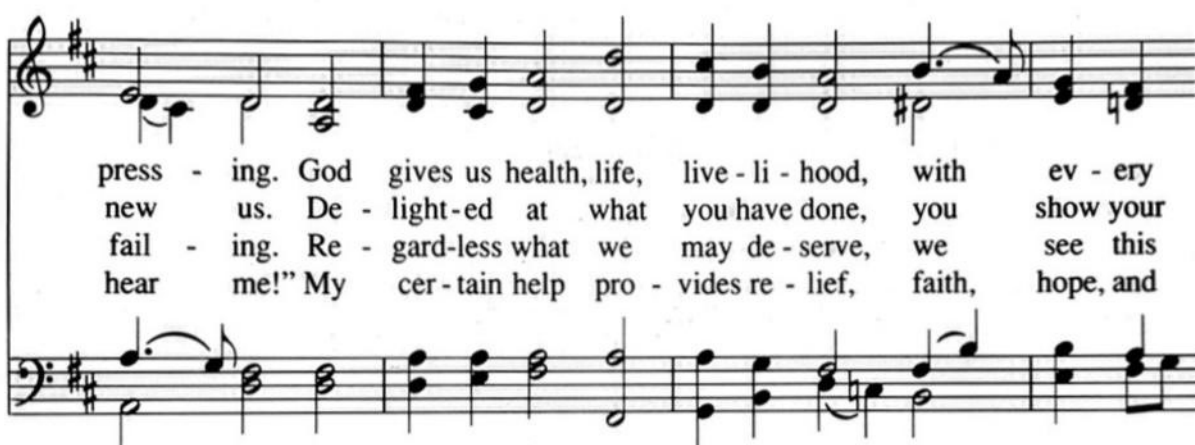
# Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

Johann J. Schütz, 1675

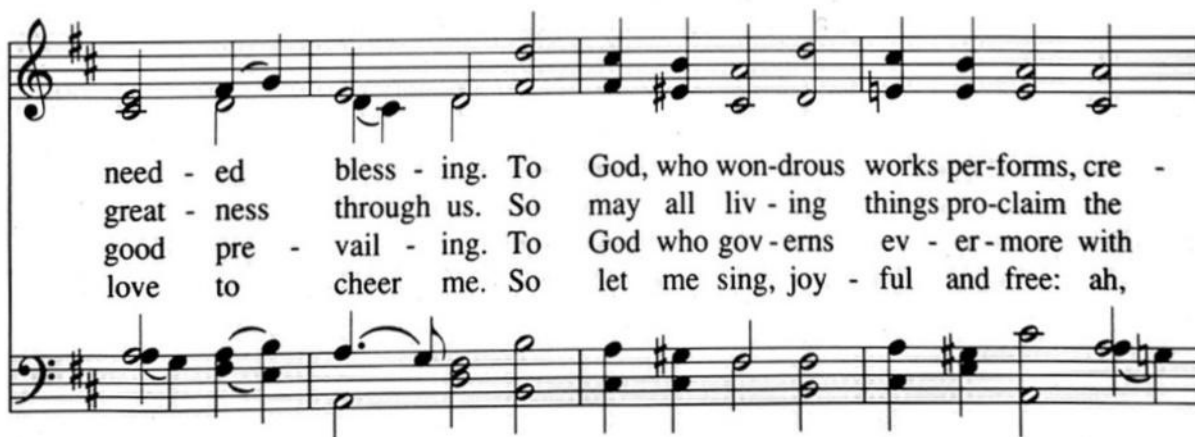
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



1 Sing praise to God, our high-est good, pro - found re - spect ex -  
2 Cre - a - tion thanks you, Ho - ly One: you made us and re -  
3 What God has made, God will pre-serve, with righ-teous-ness un -  
4 I cry to God, in pain and grief, "Please, God of mer - cy,



press - ing. God gives us health, life, live - li - hood, with ev - ery  
new us. De - light-ed at what you have done, you show your  
fail - ing. Re - gard-less what we may de - serve, we see this  
hear me!" My cer - tain help pro - vides re - lief, faith, hope, and



need - ed bless - ing. To God, who won-drous works per-forms, cre -  
great - ness through us. So may all liv - ing things pro-claim the  
good pre - vail - ing. To God who gov - erns ev - er - more with  
love to cheer me. So let me sing, joy - ful and free: ah,



a - ting life and calm-ing storms, to God give praise and glo - ry!  
won-ders of their Mak-er's name: to God give praise and glo - ry!  
jus - tice serv - ing rich and poor, to God give praise and glo - ry!  
thank-ful Chris-tians, sing with me: to God give praise and glo - ry!

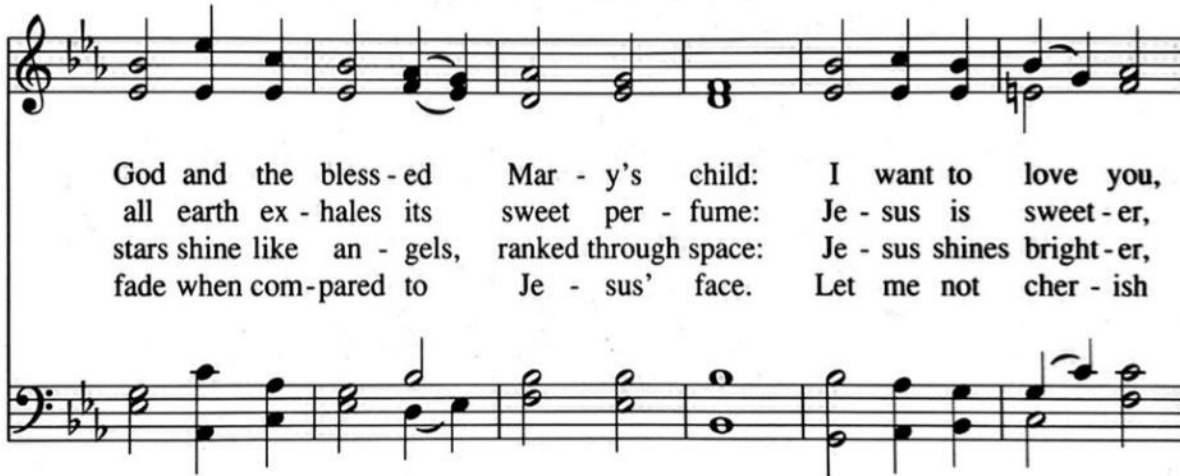
# Beautiful Jesus

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



1 Beau - ti - ful Je - sus, Head of all cre - a - tion,  
2 Beau - ti - ful spring - time, love - ly, green, and hope - ful,  
3 Beau - ti - ful sun - shine, clear, so love - ly, moon - light,  
4 All earth - ly beau - ty, all ce - les - tial ra - diance



God and the bless - ed Mar - y's child: I want to love you,  
all earth ex - hales its sweet per - fume: Je - sus is sweet - er,  
stars shine like an - gels, ranked through space: Je - sus shines bright - er,  
fade when com - pared to Je - sus' face. Let me not cher - ish



praise and a - dore you, joy of my soul, so long de - sired.  
Je - sus is pur - er, sad hearts at this, re - jice and bloom.  
Je - sus shines clear - er, in per - fect beau - ty, love, and grace.  
beau - ties that per - ish; let me this love - ly good em - brace.

*This text, which has also been translated as "Fairest Lord Jesus" and "Beautiful Savior," was included in a German Catholic hymnal published in Münster. The melody, known by various names, is thought to be a Silesian folk tune.*

Tune: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU 5.6.8.5.5.8.  
Silesian folk melody  
Harm. Richard S. Willis, 1850

# How To Make Your First Givelify Donation

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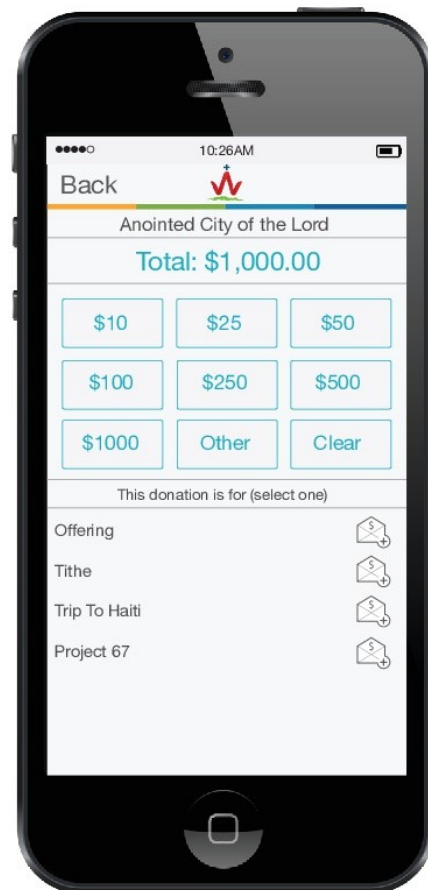
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# CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Genesis 25:19-34, Psalm 119:105-112, Romans 8:1-11,  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.



# WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Genesis 25 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

G G X J N J W E W E J H N G W  
O D Q Y A D E R E G N U O Y C  
P H M C Z T W O H C O O K N A  
K W O C G P B E B L A T Y V A  
Z B J V R H X R J C W I O E S  
R M F A T H G I R H T R I B I  
V W Y S X D T H V M U C V R H  
E S A U B F D H P Q M N L Y S  
M H X I R G A N E R D L I H C  
E L R E D D E G R E B E K A H  
R T D R L M R W R E N E F O S  
H L S T E W B L X Y E G H C N  
E A Q X I T A H I P E O P L E  
N P P O F S J U Z X L N Z V E  
T X Q M N O I T A N L R X V Y

ISAAC

REBEKAH

PRAY

CHILDREN

TWO

NATION

PEOPLE

ELDER

YOUNGER

BIRTH

RED

ESAU

JACOB

FIELD

COOK

STEW

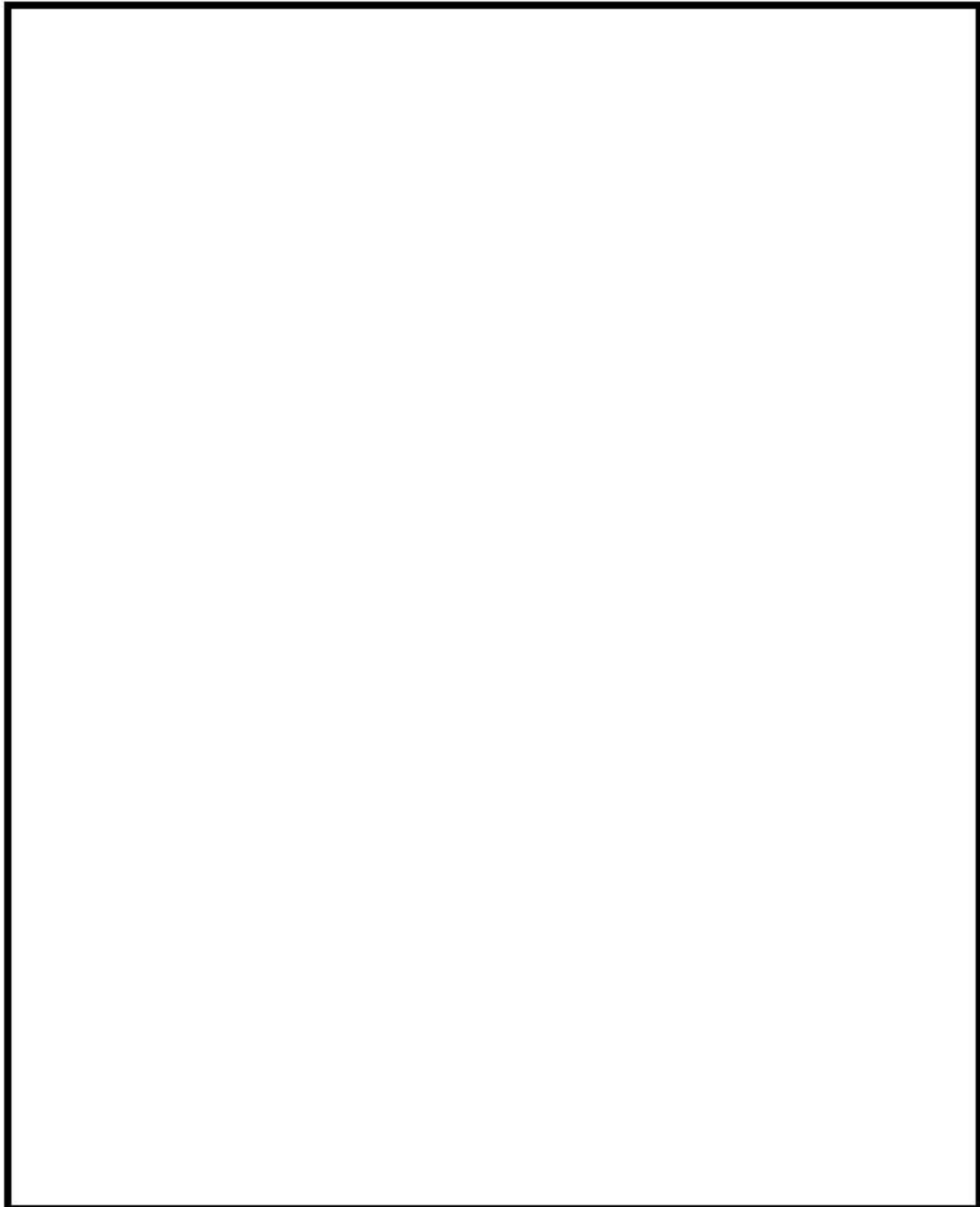
BREAD

BIRTHRIGHT



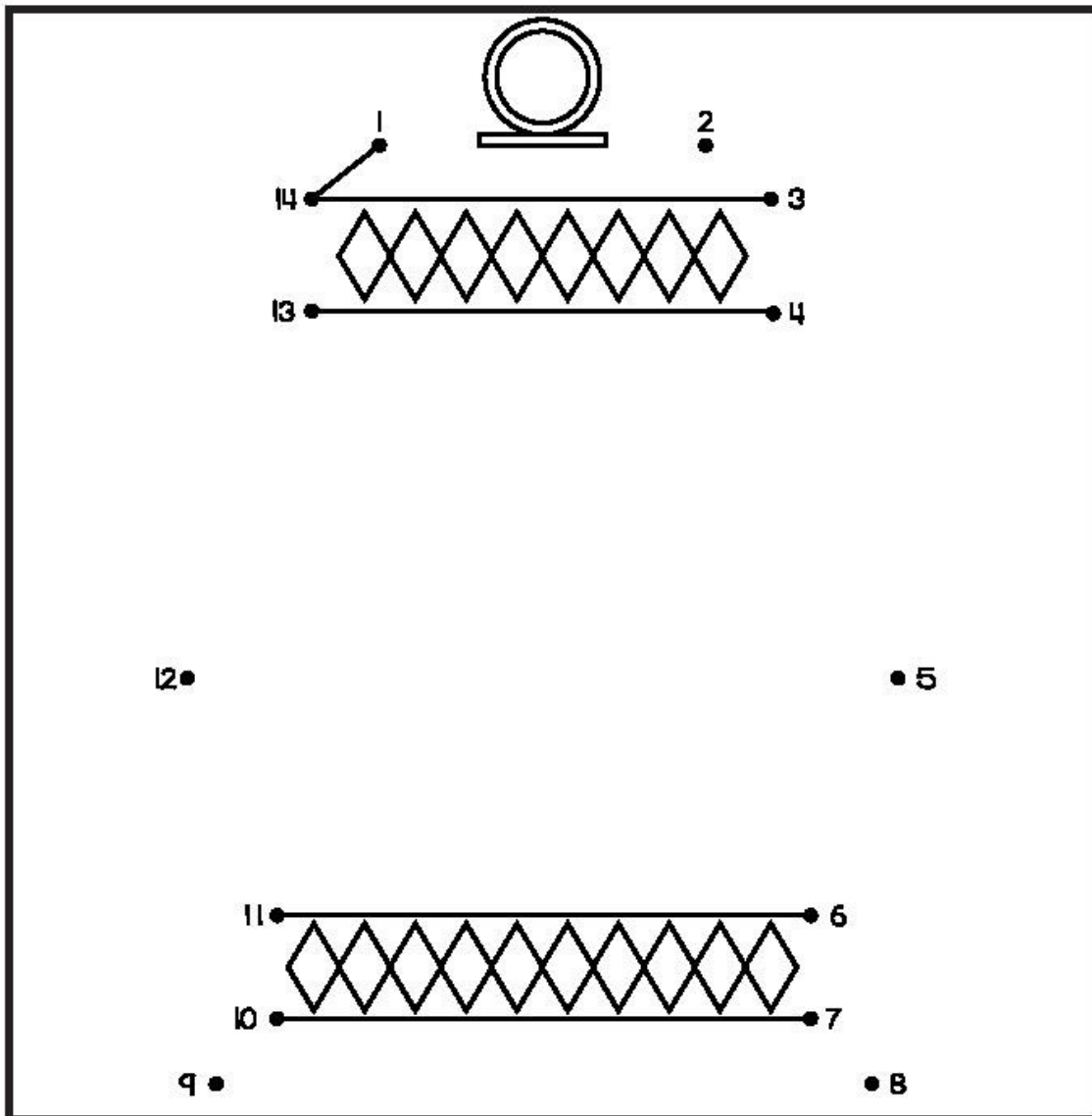
# DRAW IT

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. He compares people's hearts to different kinds of soil - a path, rocky soil, thorny soil, and good soil. Draw the seeds falling on these different places. Remember the good soil represents a heart that receives God's word and follows it!



# CONNECT the DOTS

Psalm 119 describes God's word as a lamp that lights our path as we walk through life. Connect the dots to form a lamp. Draw or write a favorite Bible story of yours inside the lamp.



Suggested for use on July 12, 2020 based on the RCL.  
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