

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO
The Big Red Church

October 4, 2020

World Communion Sunday



Welcome! Are you a guest with us, or interested in learning more about who we are, what we do, and how you can get involved? Text “New” to 559-425-4050 and fill out the Connect Card.

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

PREPARE FOR COMMUNION FROM HOME

Before the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice -- perhaps grape or cranberry -- or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup.

Prelude “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” - J.S. Bach Peter Wall, piano & Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Christopher Williams

One: Creator God, we are here, together in hope!

Many: With community and creation

One: With neighbors near and far

Many: With those known and new

One: With Christians across geography and across time,

Many: Together in hope, let us worship!

Confession

Merciful God,

You are beyond our words and our understanding.

***You are at once infinite, boundless, timeless and eternal
but, at the same time, intimately entwined with our lives.
You are with us no matter where we find ourselves.***

We gather to listen for your voice, still speaking into the wilderness.

We know your commandments, we can say all the right words...and yet we confess to you that our lives don’t always demonstrate your love. We have looked for loopholes, and created reasons to follow our own way. We admit that we have trusted in gods of our own making—of money, security, family, and power. We know well the gods of greed and jealousy, and we are loath to name and turn away from the god of privilege.

We cannot leave them behind without your leading us into better patterns of life. Give us once again the joy of your grace and healing. As you forgive so freely, be again our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who holds all of your children together in mercy. Amen.

(A silence for personal prayer and confession is observed)

Words of Assurance

Hymn "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Scripture Reading
Williams

Exodus 20:1-20

Liturgist: Christopher

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.**

Gordon Light, ©1994 Common Cup Company
OneLicense.net License #A-711732

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.**

A Special Church Family Moment

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 21:33-46

Liturgist: Christopher Williams

Sermon

Hymn "Kum ba Yah"

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.**

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

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Generosity

Liturgist: Christopher Williams

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

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

We will eat and drink together as we remember why we celebrate this meal. The Pastor will prompt the congregation when to eat and drink together.

Communion Hymn "Eat This Bread"

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: The Peace of Christ be with you:

Many: And also with you.

One: Remembering that many of us are gathered remotely, at many tables,
And are sharing bread and cup in a virtual communion,
May we remember that this action at the table is the ultimate symbol of unity.
These tables are set and all of God's children are welcome.
These tables are open for all of God's children to receive grace, love, and hope.
This welcome, this bounty, this experience of Christ's saving love
Is being celebrated here at this table and all around the world.

Let us pray this prayer from Bangladesh:

**All: O Savior Christ,
in whose way of life lies the secret of all life,
and the hopes of all the people,
we pray for the quiet courage to meet this hour.
We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age.
But let its problems challenge us,
its discoveries exhilarate us,
its injustices anger us,
its possibilities inspire us,
and its vigor renew us,
for your Kingdom's sake.**

Remembering the Story

Thanksgiving After the Meal

***Faithful God,
you have fed us at this table
along with that great multitude of your faithful people.
Keep us faithful to your call,
and abide with us always,
that we may serve you in all things.
In Jesus' name. Amen.***

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.**

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

Postlude "Nun Fruet Euch, Lieben Christen Gmien" - BWV 734 - J.S. Bach Scott Horton, organ

Today's Communion Liturgy was adapted from A Procession of Prayers: Meditations and Prayers from around the World, comp. John Carden, WCC, and Cassell, London, UK, 1998, p.179. Additional communion language added by UCC Global Ministries.

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time p, second time f)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

Kum ba Yah

D G D

1. *Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba
 2. Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba
 3. Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba
 4. Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba

A7 D G D G D A7 D

yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!
 yah! Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!
 yah! Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!
 yah! Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

Eat This Bread

G C Am D Bm

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of music. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The bass line consists of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. Chord symbols G, C, Am, D, and Bm are placed above the staff. The lyrics 'Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and' are written below the staff.

Em Dsus D G D Em Bm

nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup,

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of music. The treble clef melody continues with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The bass line continues with quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. Chord symbols Em, Dsus, D, G, D, Em, and Bm are placed above the staff. The lyrics 'nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup,' are written below the staff.

C D G

trust in me and you will not thirst.

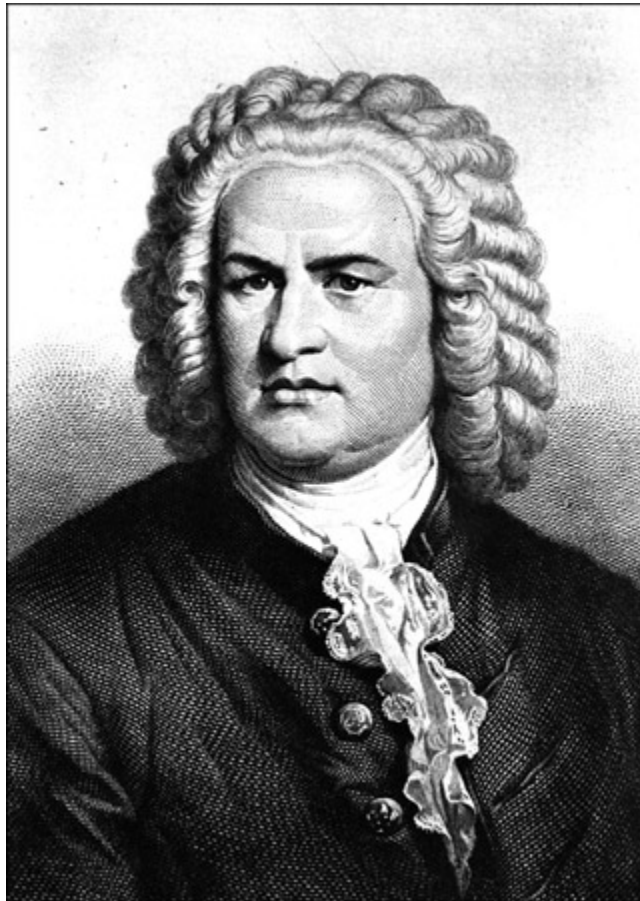
Detailed description: This system contains the third line of music. The treble clef melody continues with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The bass line continues with quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. Chord symbols C, D, and G are placed above the staff. The lyrics 'trust in me and you will not thirst.' are written below the staff.

First Congregational Church of Fresno

BACHTOBER CONCERT

Featuring the Pipe Organ Masterworks of

Johann Sebastian Bach



Sunday, October 11, at 3:00 p.m.

Scott Horton, organist

Link to listen/view to be posted at bigredchurch.org.
for Facebook and YouTube platforms.

Ministry of Community Outreach

We have been very busy in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our passion is to serve.



Did you know?

- That we have a 4-person team feeding the homeless every Sunday since March 11, 2020
- This Homeless Project was made possible by generous donations from several church members and friends. *We kindly accept donations to continue the Homeless Project.*
- That our team has served 3369 meals from March 11th to September 13
- That we also participate in Potluck in the Park the 3rd Saturday of the month—feeding 53 to 125 homeless people at Eaton Park.
- That Marilyn Coles has prepared the entrees for 28 of the 33 dates we served food to the homeless. Zorayda Darce and Pat Morales are also generous contributors to our meals.
- FCCF is now recognized out in the community as *a church that cares and is involved.*
- That at Naomi’s House they celebrate the birthdays each month; we have celebrated with them by bringing a complete meal plus a birthday cake. We have also brought small gifts for each of the ladies at the birthday dinner. It is great fun. They have grown to a capacity of 50 women for short term stays.
- That Outreach also donates to:
 - non-profits—such as We Are Not Invisible, Crop Hunger Walk, Eco Village Project of Fresno, Poverello House, and Hinds Hospice Angel Babies
 - Social Action Committees & publications—Earth Day, Faith in the Valley, Fresno Rainbow Pride, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Community Alliance Newspaper (were our own Ruth Gadebusch is a well-known Opinion writer).
- Due to health issues we have lost a few members of this Outreach Ministry and we are VERY Interested in adding new members. If you are interested or have questions you may talk to Marilyn Coles, Outreach Ministry Chair (e-mail toppspnn@gmail.com or call 903-0635). We would love to have you. Come make a difference in someone’s life.

NAOMI’S HOUSE CHRISTMAS GIFT PACKS

- For those who may not know, we also provide Christmas gift bags to the women at Naomi’s House each Christmas. We are collecting donations to put in the backpacks beginning September 20 thru December 16. What we need:

White cotton Tube Socks	Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Bars of Soap (for women)	Deoderant (for women)
Shampoo & Conditioner	Hand Lotion
Disposable Razors & Shave Cream	Emory Board

LOOK FOR THE RED TUB IN THE CHURCH OFFICE TO DROP IN YOUR NOAMI’S DONATIONS