

First Congregational Church
of
Fresno

The Big Red Church



Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 19, 2025

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi, Senior Pastor

Our Gathering

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

Prelude

Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 36)**

Michael Camuñez, liturgist

One: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

One: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep.

All: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

One: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of heart!

All: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

***Hymn**

“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

#423, pew hymnal

Prayer of Transformation

Michael Camuñez

Gracious God, we live in the tension between expectation and reality. Sometimes, we navigate that tension with hope and clarity. At other times, we fester in doubt, disappointment, and uncertainty. Help us to release our need to control and enable us to embrace the possibilities. May our trust in your goodness and the power you have poured into us embolden our faith. Amen.

Words of Grace

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Greeting: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Response: *And also with you.*

***Response of Praise (Sung)**

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.**

Choral Anthem

“Come Let Us Dream” - arr. J. Middleton

Chancel Choir

Time for Discovery [*children are invited to the chancel steps*]

Vanessa Valdez-Johnson

**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.**

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The Lord’s Prayer

*Our Creator, 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.*

***Hymn**

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

#472, pew hymnal

Scripture

John 2:1–11

Michael Camuñez

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him,

“Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Liturgist: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God within us, and for the Word of God among us.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

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.

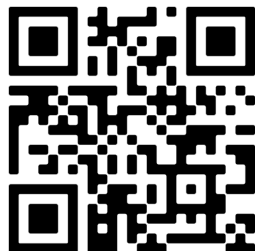
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Prayers of the Church

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Invitation to Generosity

Michael Camuñez



Here at the Big Red Church, everyone counts, and every gift counts!

- ⇒ *There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).*
- ⇒ *You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code.*
- ⇒ *BigRedChurch.org/giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.*

Offertory

“Prayer of St. Francis” - S. Temple

Chancel Choir

* **Doxology** (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH)

***We give You but Your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Yours alone, we give it gratefully.
Amen.***

***Dedication**

***Closing Hymn**

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

#459, pew hymnal

***Benediction**

***Blessing Song**

“Go Now in Peace”

**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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***Postlude Hymn**

“We Shall Overcome” (vvs. 1, 2, 6)

#570, pew hymnal

**FCCF Proposed Bylaws Town Hall Meeting today following
worship in the Parlor.**

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your

hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful-ness, God, un - to me!

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain
Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a - fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

We Shall Overcome

570

United States traditional

John 8:31–32; Rom. 12:21; 2 Cor. 13:11

1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver -
2 We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in
3 We are not a - fraid, we are not a -
4 Our God will see us through, our God will see us

come, we shall o - ver - come some day;
hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;
fraid, we are not a - fraid to - day;
through, our God will see us through some day;

(1-6) Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve,

we shall o - ver - come some day.
we'll go hand in hand some day.
we are not a - fraid to - day.
our God will see us through some day.

5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.

6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.

This anthem of the 1960s civil rights movement was frequently sung at mass meetings and marches. Several sources have been cited as its origins, including the spiritual "No more auction block for me" based on the tune known as Sicilian Mariners; an old Baptist hymn "I'll Be All Right"; and part of the text from C. A. Tindley's gospel hymn "I'll Overcome Someday."

Tune: WE SHALL OVERCOME Irr.
United States traditional
Harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1981



Join Us for a Special Worship Service with Mas Masumoto - January 26, 2025

We are excited to welcome Mas Masumoto—esteemed author and local farmer—on **January 26th**. He will join Pastor Simon for a conversation inspired by his upcoming book, *Music of Ghosts*, exploring “the sounds of our history” and their connection to faith.

We also invite you to share **memories of the sounds of your faith**. Brief descriptions (5–20 words) will be recorded after church on **January 12th** and **January 19th**, then shared anonymously during worship on the 26th.

Come prepared to reflect and celebrate the connection between sound, memory, and faith.



Community Screening of *All We Carry*

Join us for a special screening of *All We Carry*, a heartwarming and award-winning documentary about an asylum seeking family and the community in West Seattle that embraced them. Followed by a brief panel discussion including director Cady Voge.

Tuesday, January 28 @ 5:00pm
At The Big Red Church

Free event with warm ponche & pupusas on us!

FIRM



Reserve your
spot on
Eventbrite



This Week at Big Red

Monday, January 20 - Office will be closed for MLK Holiday

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, January 21

Wednesday, January 22

- ♦ 6:00pm: Handbell rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday, January 23

Friday, January 24

- ♦ 9:30am: BRC Pantry food distribution prep

Saturday, January 25

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Pantry "Free Food Saturday" - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 26

- ♦ 9:00am: Exploration Hour - Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship - Sanctuary - Special Guest Mas Masumoto
- ♦ 11:00am: FCCF Congregational Annual Meeting with lunch provided
Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall

Save The Dates:

- ♦ Mas Masumoto - Guest Speaker - January 26th
- ♦ FCCF Annual Meeting and lunch - January 26th - following worship service
- ♦ Ordination of Kimberly (Schoelen) Williams - February 22nd

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Bigredchurch.org

Pastor

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
simon@bigredchurch.org

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey
office@bigredchurch.org

Director of Christian Education

Vanessa Valdez-Johnson
vanessa@bigredchurch.org

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Technicians

Karisa Garza
Brad Jenkins

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Michael Camuñez

Ushers: Rebecca Kliewer, Gene Kliewer and Teresa Fuentes

Acolytes: Santiago and Makenna

Technician: Brad Jenkins

FCCF Open and 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, 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.

Information for Families with Kids:



Families with Infants and Toddlers: If you have any care needs for your infant or toddler during service, Room 1, located in the courtyard, is available. There is a live feed of the service playing in the room.

Families with Kids 3 Years old and older: Kids are welcome to stay with their parents in service until the children's message. After the message, kids can join us in Sunday School. If your kids are joining us in Sunday School for the first time, please scan the QR code and fill out the form online. Thank you!



We believe God wants to liberate those in bondage. If you are a victim of domestic violence we encourage you to find safety. 559.233.HELP
Help@MMCenter.org