

**Twenty-fourth Sunday
of
Ordinary Time
November 3, 2024**



First Congregational Church of Fresno
United Church of Christ
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93704

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
Pastor

Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

November 3, 2024

Our Gathering

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

Prelude Hymn-Sing

Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Call to Worship**

Dave Mires, Liturgist

One: Praise the Holy One as long as we live

All: Praise the Creator, who makes our days, who trails our paths, and who gives us breath.

One: Praise the Holy One with our whole selves—mind, body, and soul.

All: Trust in wisdom and honor, truth and love, grace and mercy.

One: Praise the Holy One for God is just, generous, compassionate, liberating, and near.

All: The Holy One reigns, lifting up the lowly, humbling, the proud, and sustaining the righteous from generation to generation. Praise God!

***Hymn**

“For All the Saints”

#299, pew hymnal

Prayer of Transformation

Dave Mires

Righteous One, write your commandments on our hearts...not as a list of do's and don'ts but as a vision of the people who can be, the lives we may live, and the world we may create. Write liberation of the oppressed, care and wholeness of those with unmet needs, and revelation and understanding to those oblivious to the truth. Emblazon your law of love in our hearts, on our lips, and in our journey. Transform us with your love so that we may reflect your love toward our neighbor and toward ourselves.

Words of Grace

***Passing of the Peace**

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

“In Remembrance of Our Lord” - English/Dengler

Chancel Choir

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

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**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.**

Holy Communion with the Saints

Rev. Simon Biasell

***Hymn of Preparation**

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

#342, pew hymnal

Invitation to the Table

The Sharing

Communion Music

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” & “O, When Shall I See Jesus?”

Nancy Mack & Scott Horton, flute duet

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

#522, pew hymnal

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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:

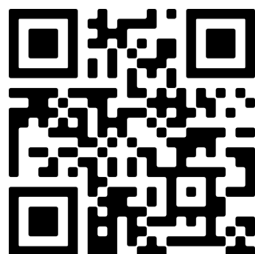
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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Prayers for the Church

Invitation to Generosity

Dave Mires



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

“I Carry You in My Heart ” - D. Butler

Chancel Choir

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

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Dedication**

***Closing Hymn**

“Forward Through the Ages ”

#377, pew hymnal

***Benediction**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***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

“A Mighty Fortress” - W. Wold

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude

Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who to the
 2 You were their rock, their ref - uge, and their might: you, Christ, the
 3 Still may your peo - ple, faith - ful, true, and bold, live as the
 4 Ringed by this cloud of wit - ness - es di - vine, we fee - bly
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the

world their stead-fast faith con - fessed, your name, O Je - sus,
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
 saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.
 were their one true light.
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 faith - ful lives en - twine.
 gain, and faith grows strong.

This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in The English Hymnal (1906).

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

342

James Montgomery, 1825; alt.

Luke 24:30-31, 35

1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
2 Here share with us in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood;

O Sav - ior, stay with us and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
That liv - ing bread, that heaven-ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

This hymn is sometimes found as the second and third stanzas of an American hymn, "Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless." Montgomery—Moravian poet, journalist, humanitarian, and author of more than 400 hymns—titled this hymn "The Family Table."

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
Day, The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

ABOUT TODAY'S ANTHEM

"I Carry You In My Heart"

Words adapted by Kathy Burdette

Music by Donna Butler

I Carry You in My Heart is based on the e. e. cummings poem, *I Carry Your Heart with Me*, and Paul's letter to the Philippians:

I thank my God every time I remember you.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.

It is right for me to feel this way about you, since I have you in my heart.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight. - Philippians 1:3-4a, 7 & 9

Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
 2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
 3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
 for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

Refrain

For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,

Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

This Week at Big Red

Monday, November 4

- ◆ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, November 5

Wednesday, November 6

- ◆ 12:00pm: Bible Study - Zoom
- ◆ 4:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ◆ 6:00pm: Handbell rehearsal - Music Room
- ◆ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday, November 7

Friday, November 8

Saturday, November 9

- ◆ 1:00pm: Listening Sessions - Fireside Room

Sunday, November 10

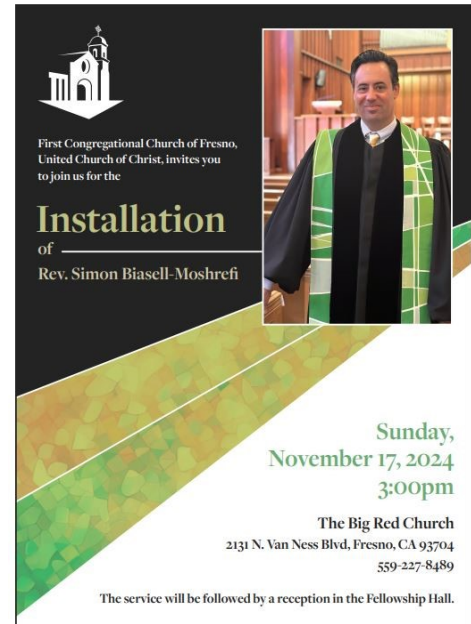
- ◆ 9:00am: Exploration Hour - Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ◆ 10:00am: Worship - Sanctuary
- ◆ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

Additional Listening Sessions:

- ◆ Nov 12 - 6:00pm - Fireside Room
- ◆ Nov 13 - 1:30pm - Fireside Room

Save The Dates:

- ◆ Installation of Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi - Nov 17
- ◆ Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon - Nov 24



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

Bigredchurch.org

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Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Technicians

Karisa Garza
Brad Jenkins

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Dave Mires

Usher: Cliff Dodd

Technician: Karisa Garza

Acolytes: Addison and Avery

Coffee Hour: Church Life

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