Sunday Worship

October 31, 2021

Rev. Raygan Baker

The Big Red Church

First Congregational Church of Fresno

Welcome! Are you a guest with us, or interested in connecting with us?
Text "New" to 559-425-4050 and fill out the Connect Card.

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

Prelude Prelude on "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"- arr. K. Kosche — Scott Horton, organ
Trumpet Tune on "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" - B. Kolodziej

Gathering Hymn "ALL ARE WELCOME" vs. 4 (insert)

Welcome — Rev. Raygan Baker

***Call to Worship** — Liturgist: Ken Sawatsky

One: Come, all who are weary with grief, heavy with loss, or exhausted by the strains of life.
All: Gather in the embrace of God and be held.

One: Come, all who are hungry for an end to violence and injustice.
All: Find sustenance in the presence of the One who liberates the oppressed.

One: Come, all who are searching for belonging or purpose.
All: God draws us in and weaves our lives together.

One: Whatever we bring, wherever we come from, whatever we hope for, this sacred space can hold it all. Beloveds, let us worship God.

***Hymn** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" #439, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer Liturgist: Ken Sawatsky

Holy God,
Our hope and our comfort, turn our hearts and our feet in the direction of love. Though paths unfold before us promising success or security, give us the courage to ask if they are also the paths of love. In Christ, you have shown us what it is to choose each other, to commit to justice, and to live compassion. Make it so among us. Amen.

Anthem "God is Our Refuge" - A. Pote Chancel Choir & Robbyn Mosley, cornet

Scripture Reading Ruth 1:1-18 Liturgist: Ken Sawatsky

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.

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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: Mark 12:28-34 Liturgist: Ken Sawatsky

Sermon

***Hymn** Glorious Things of You Are Spoken" 307, pew hymnal

Invitation to Prayer

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

Invitation to Generosity Liturgist: Ken Sawatsky

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***Blessing and 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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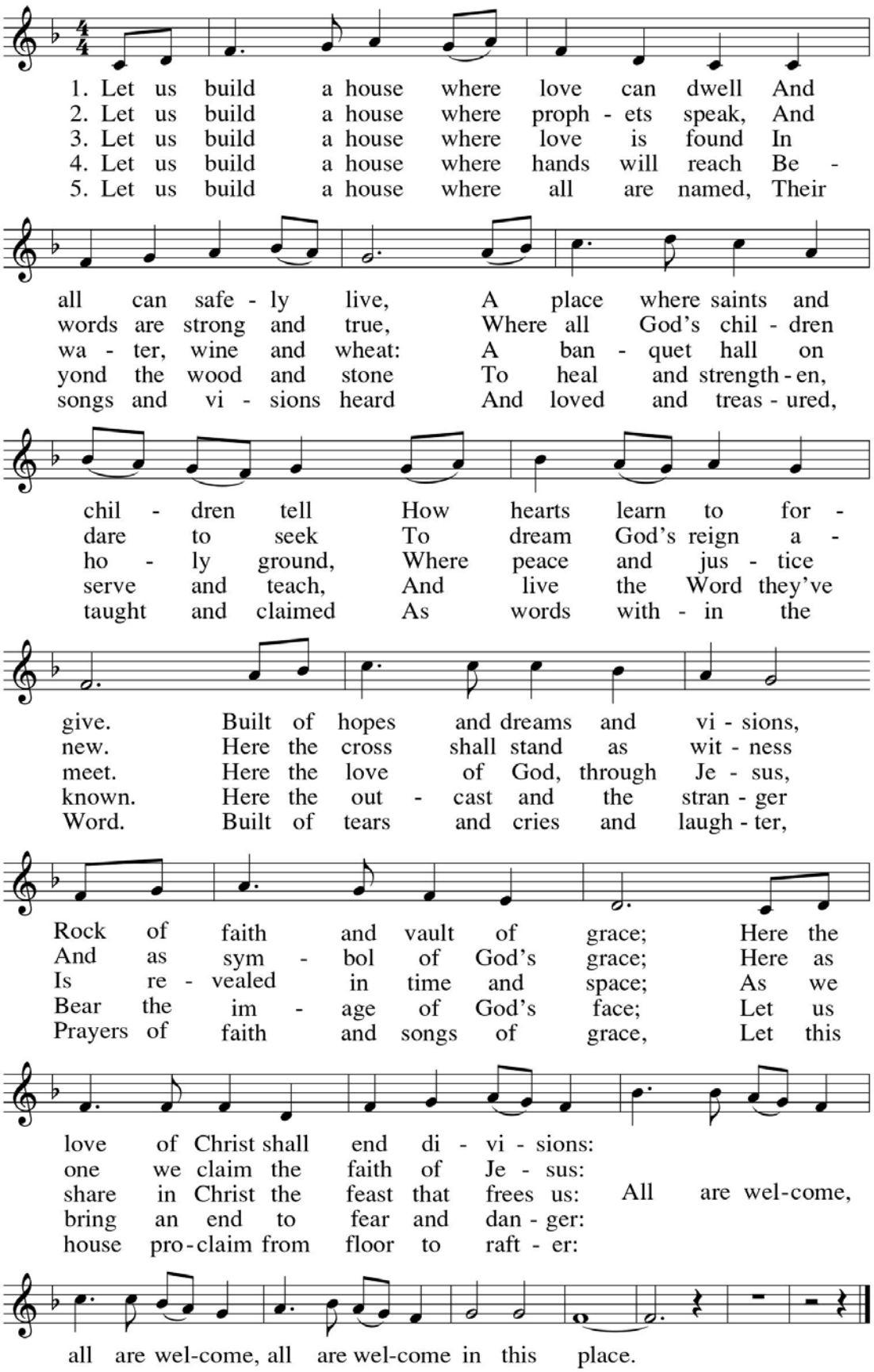
It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude "A Mighty Fortress" - Wilbur Held Catherine English, organ

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World

All Are Welcome



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Tune: TWO OAKS, 9 6 8 6 8 7 10 with refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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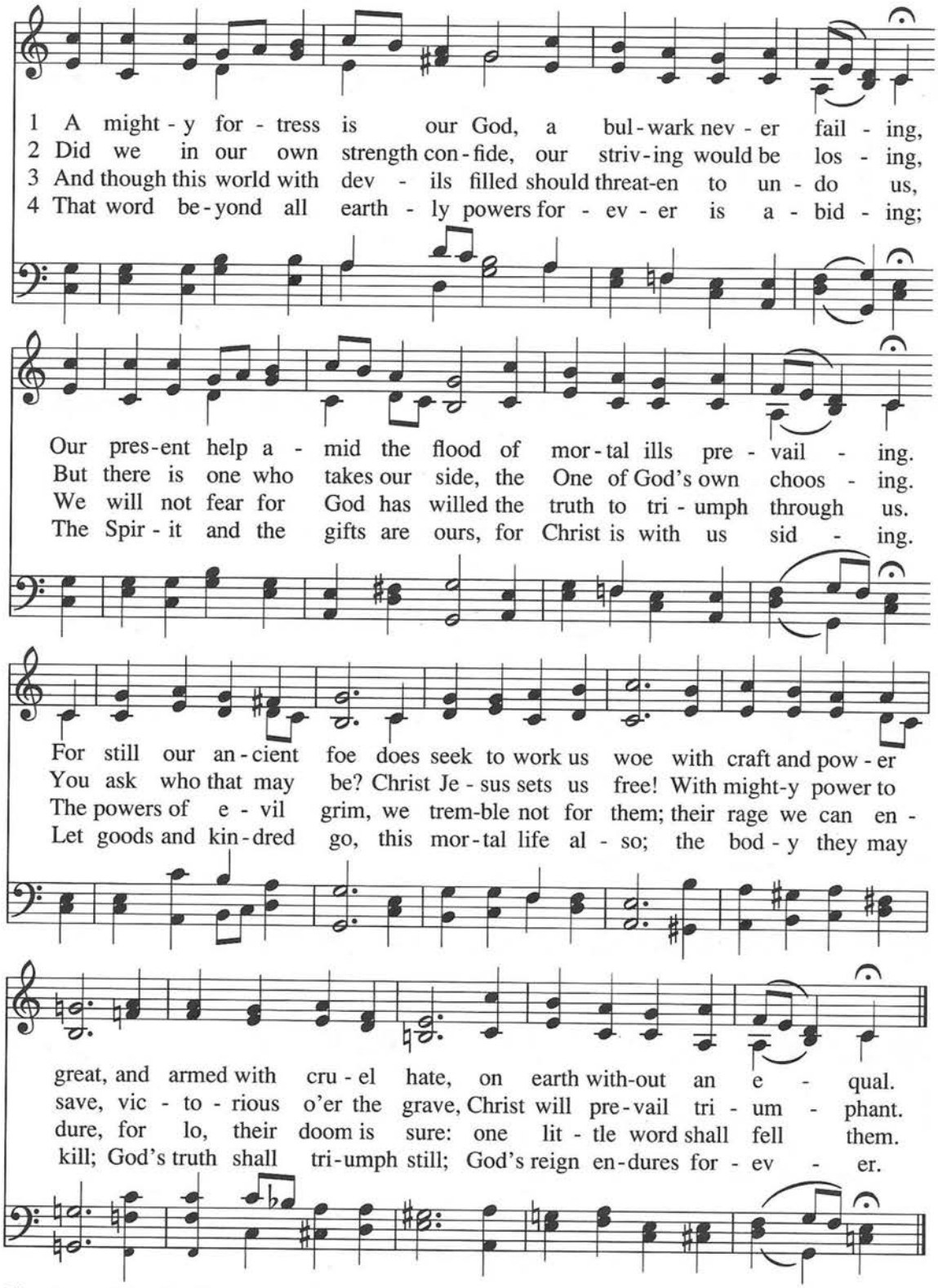
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529
Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

Ps. 46

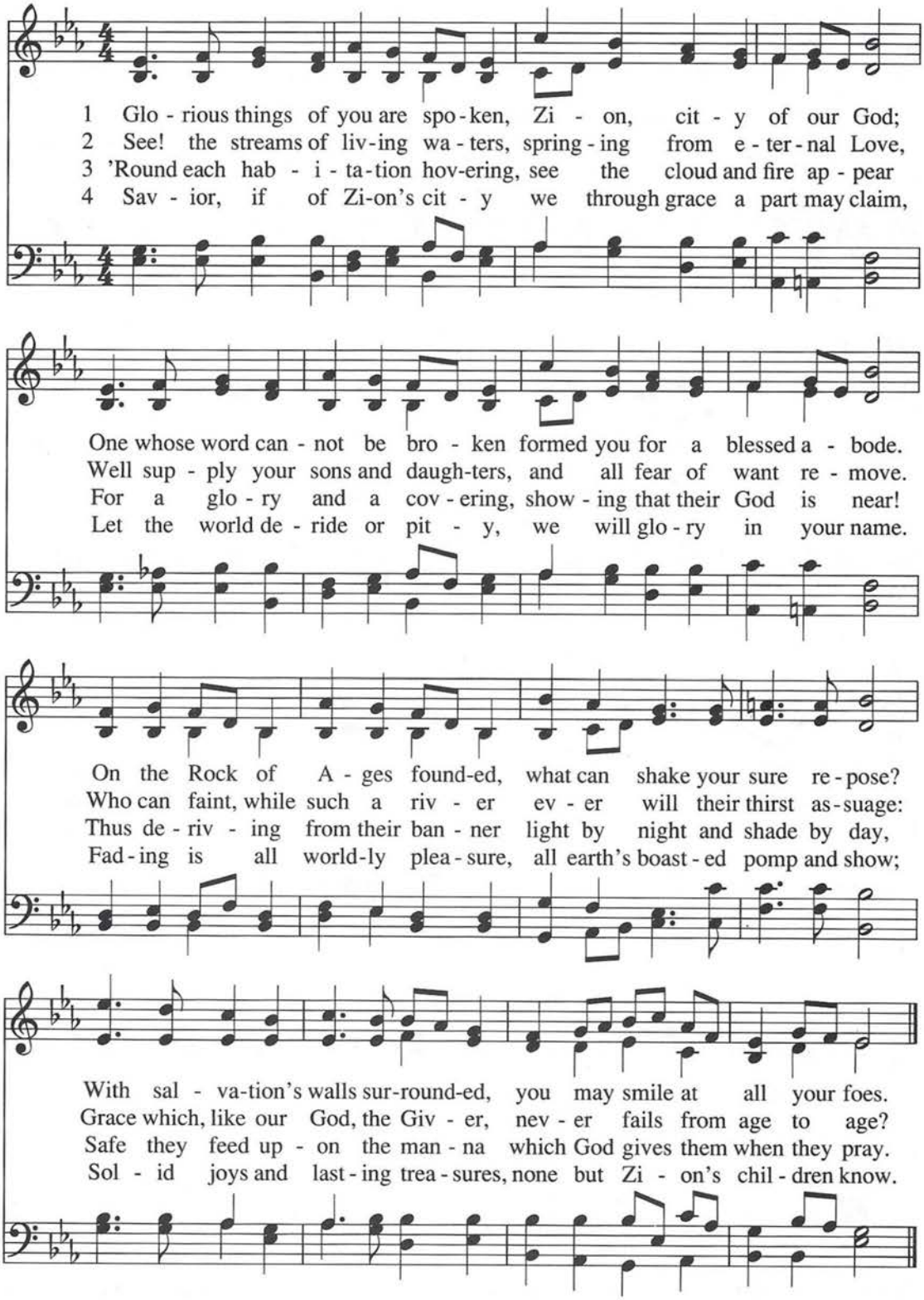


There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake, or in 1529, when Lutheran German princes protested the revocation of their liberties. It has been translated into more than fifty languages.

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.
Martin Luther, c. 1529
Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, *1930; alt.*
For another version, see 440

307 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

Ps. 87:3; Isa. 33:20–21; 60:18; 26:4; Exod. 13:22 — *John Newton, 1779; alt.*



Filled with Old Testament scriptural allusions, this was one of few hymns of praise included among the many subjective, sometimes brooding, hymns in Newton and Cowper's Olney Hymns. *It has enjoyed great popularity in many English-speaking countries.*

Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7.D.
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797
Alternate tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

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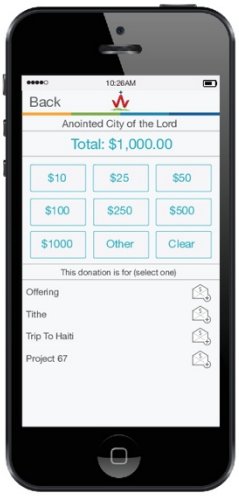

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First Congregational Church of Fresno

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00am-3:30pm

First time worshiping with us? Text “New” to (559) 425-4050 and fill out the Connection Card.

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Nursery Staff
Andrew Fennacy, Zoryada Darce, Patsy Finster

Assisting in Today’s Service

Liturgist: Ken Sawatsky

Music Director/Organist: Scott Horton

Ushers: Rich Hoyt, Bruce Owdom, Sue Karibian

Technician: Karisa Garza

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.