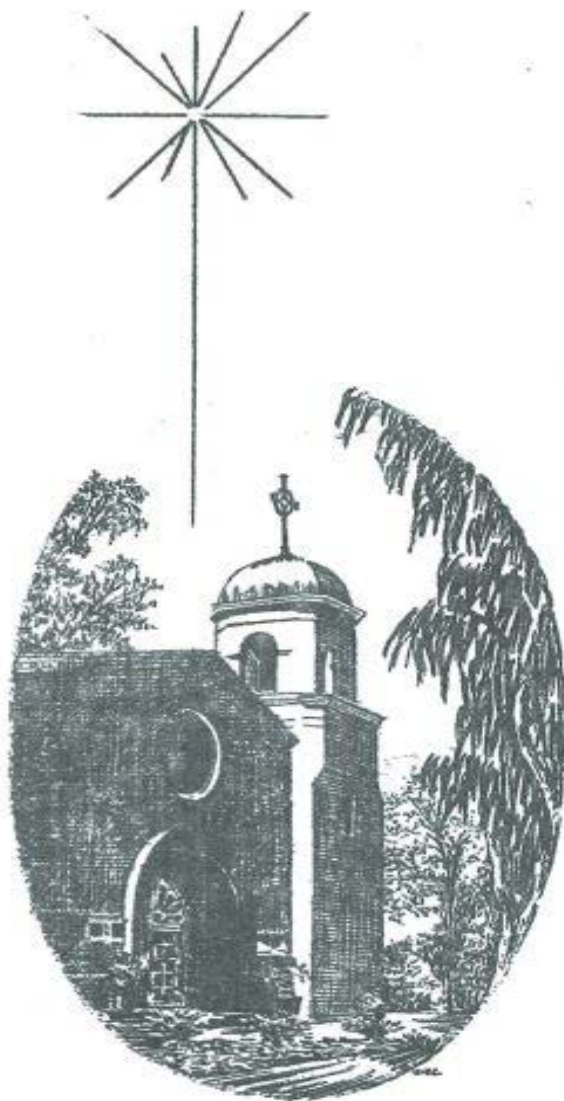


Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021



First Congregational Church

2131 VAN NESS BOULEVARD AT YALE AVENUE
F R E S N O , - C A L I F O R N I A

Text “New” to 559-425-4050 and fill out the Connect Card.

Prelude	“Variations on O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” - arr. L. Dengler	Scott Horton, piano
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Lighting the Candle of Peace Householder Family

Reader 1: Malachi announces that God is sending a messenger to prepare for God's arrival. This Messenger will bring restoration, which is bad news for corrupt systems, and a soothing balm to those who suffer. This Advent, we seek the God who brings peace and healing.

Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people, and prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to you, O Is-ra-el!

Welcome

Rev. Raygan Baker

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Liturgist: Melinda Mobley

From December 2, 1979

*God of glory and compassion,
You have given us a clue to the meaning of
all life in the gift of your Son. We confess
that we have called ourselves his followers
and have forgotten to walk the way he
walked. Now, in this Advent season, may we
see him more clearly, and follow him more
courageously, knowing that he is our
companion and our guide. Amen.*

A silence for prayer and reflection is observed.

***Hymn**

"Now Bless the God of Israel"

#110, pew hymnal

Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

Liturgist: Melinda Mobley

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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Scripture Reading:

Luke 1:67-79

Liturgist: Melinda Mobley

Sermon

"The Naughty and Nice" 1984

***Hymn**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

#345, 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

Stewardship Moment

Peter Wall, CFO

Invitation to Generosity

Liturgist: Melinda Mobley

*Use this QR Code with your smartphone's
camera app to give through Givelify*



*You can find more information about giving to the Big Red Church at
BigRedChurch.org/Giving/.*

Choral Anthem

“Et in Terra Pax”
(And On Earth, Peace) - J. Purifoy

Chancel Choir

Holy Communion

Invitation and Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The peace of Christ be with you,
Many: **and also with you.**

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.*

Breaking, Pouring, Feasting

Thanksgiving After the Meal

*Holy God,
With this meal, you have filled us with the word and the bread of life
of your son Jesus Christ. May the nourishment we have received
sustain us through this Advent Season, and empower us to follow
your Spirit into hope, peace, joy, and love for our world. Amen.*

*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

**"Carillon on Come, All Ye Shepherds"
- G. Young**

**Scott Horton,
organ**

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World



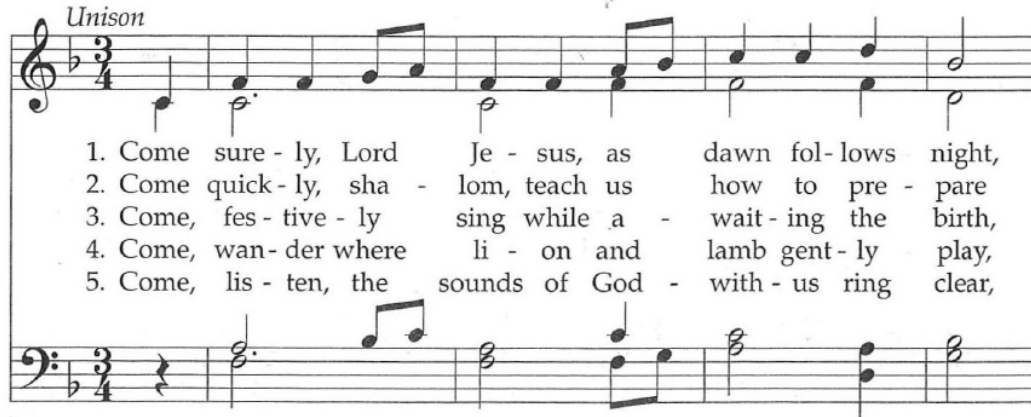
**This is a free concert, but due to COVID precautions,
there will be limited, ticketed seating for each
performance.**

***Face masks will be required in the church regardless of
vaccination status.**

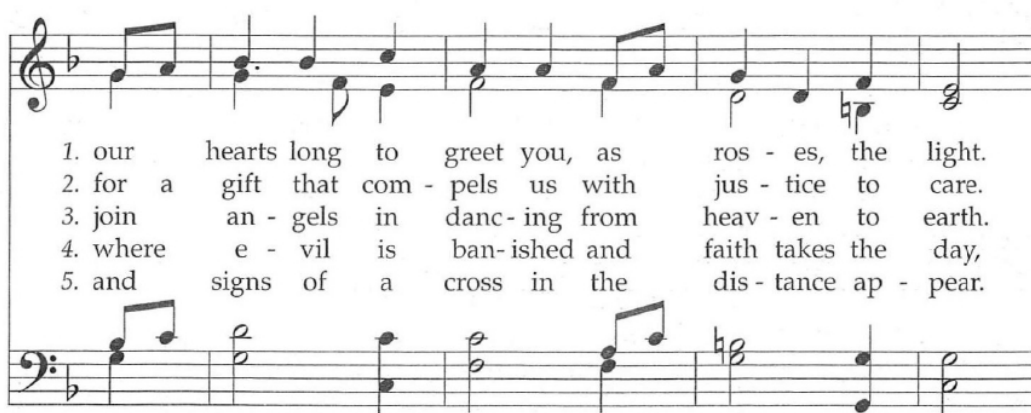
**Please use this QR Code or contact
the church office to obtain your tickets.**

One Candle Is Lit

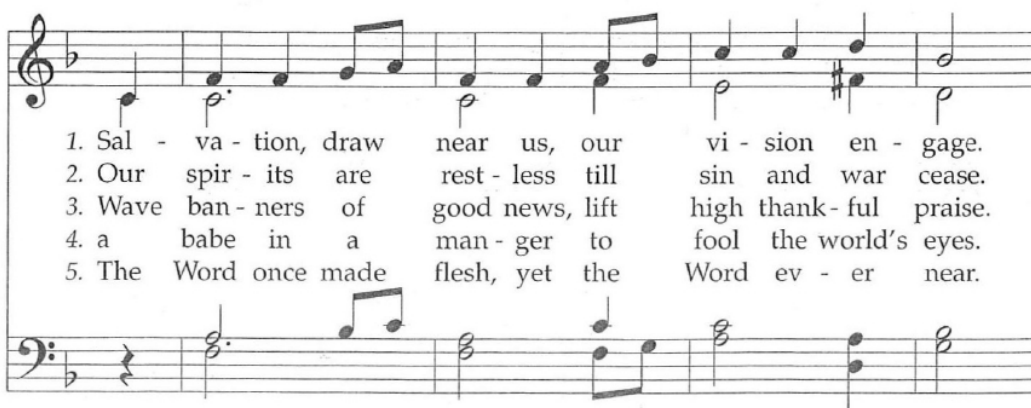
Unison



1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
 2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare
 3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,
 4. Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play,
 5. Come, lis - ten, the sounds of God - with - us ring clear,



1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.
 2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.
 3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.
 4. where e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day,
 5. and signs of a cross in the dis - tance ap - pear.



1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
 2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
 3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.
 4. a babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes.
 5. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ev - er near.



1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.
 2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
 3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.
 4. One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.
 5. One can - dle is lit for the Christ - birth - day here.

Now Bless the God of Israel

Luke 1:68-79; Ps. 18:1-3; Isa. 9:2-7

Ruth Duck, 1985

1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,
 2 Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,
 3 In ten - der mer-cy, God will send the day - spring from on high,

who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - erance in this hour.
 that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;
 our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.

Through ho - ly proph-ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,
 And you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph-e - sy,
 God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.

to save us from the heav-y hand of all who wish us harm.
 that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
 Sing prais-es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

This text by United Church of Christ clergywoman Ruth Duck is a paraphrase of the "Benedictus," which is often sung at morning prayer. She came to appreciate daily prayer while studying at the University of Notre Dame.

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.
 Traditional English melody
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*Isa. 6:1-3; 1 Tim. 6:13-15**From the Liturgy of St. James, 4th century**Transl. Gerard Moultrie, 1864; alt.*

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 Mon - arch great, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
 4 At Christ's feet the six - winged ser - aphs, cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth Christ stood, Lord of all, in hu - man ves - ture—
 on the way, As the Light of light de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in the hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood— Christ will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, That the powers of
 as with cease - less voice they cry, Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - ing, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful bread of life for heav - en - ly food.
 hell may van - ish as the shad - ows clear a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, God most high!

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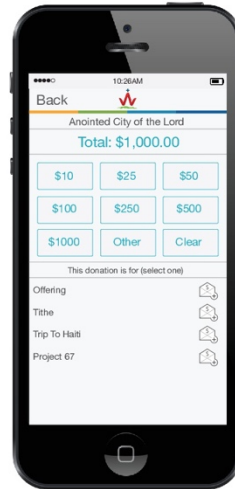
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First Congregational Church of Fresno

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Office@bigredchurch.org | www.BigRedChurch.org

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

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

Pastor

Rev. Raygan Baker
rbaker@bigredchurch.org

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Caretaker

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Office Manager

Erica Holland
office@bigredchurch.org

Communications Coordinator

Gabe Hernandez

Custodian

Gregory Chavarria

Nursery Staff

Andrew Fennacy, Zoryada Darce

Assisting in Today's Service

Readers: The Householder Family

Liturgist: Melinda Mobley

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.