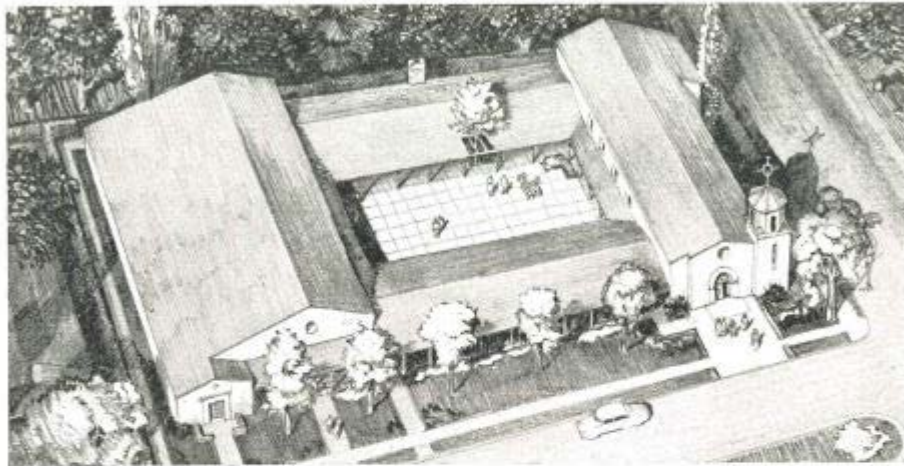


Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

New FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH . . . of FRESNO

. 2131 Van Ness Boulevard at Yale Avenue



"THE CHURCH OF OUR DREAMS"

This is the church of our dreams. A church adequate for the task, the church of the warm heart, of the open mind, of the adventurous spirit; the church that cares, that heals hurt lives, that comforts old people, that challenges youth, that knows no divisions of culture or class, no frontiers, geographical or social; the church that inquires as well as avers, that looks forward as well as backward; the church of the Master, the church of the people, the high church, the broad church, the low church, high as the ideals of Jesus, broad as the love of God, low as the humblest human, a working church, a worshipping church, a winsome church; a church that interprets the truth in terms of its own times and challenges its times in terms of the truth; that inspires courage for this life and hope for the life to come; a church of all good men, the church of the living God.

—John M. Moore

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 Christmas Music of Gordon Young Scott Horton,
organ

Gathering Song “One Candle Is Lit” vs. 4 (Insert)

Lighting the Candle of Love Peter & Mary Wall

O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent. [With the first three candles already burning, a member of a family lights the last purple candle.]

We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God’s voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God’s beckoning to us as well.

Collect

(In unison)

Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.

Sung Response



Welcome

Rev. Raygan Baker

*Hymn

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

#119, pew hymnal

Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

Anthem

“When Christ was Born of Mary Free”
- Daniel Burton

Chancel Choir

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
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Scripture Reading:

Luke 1:46-55

Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

Sermon

“Builded Together for a Habitation of God” 1949

*Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

#127, 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

(concluding with)
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.***

Invitation to Generosity

Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

*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/*

***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

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World



2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.
bigredchurch.org

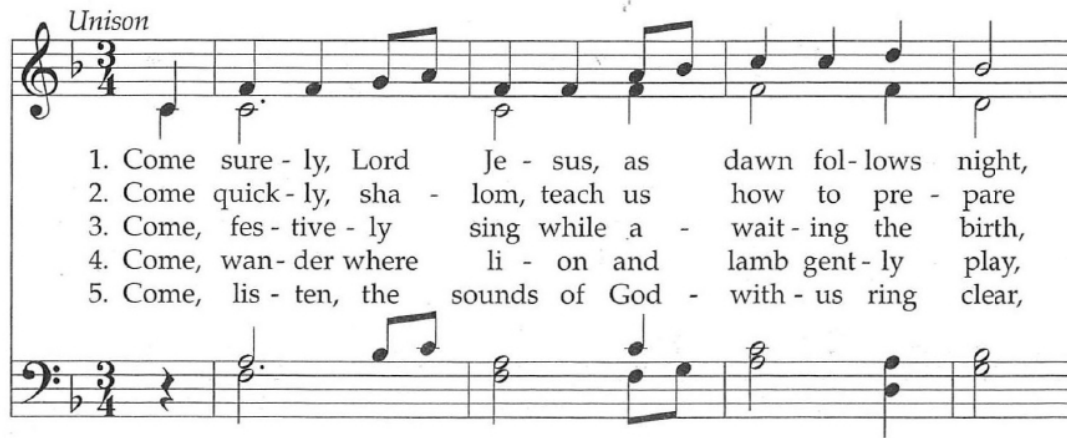
The Longest Night

Tuesday, December 21
7:00pm
Minturn Chapel

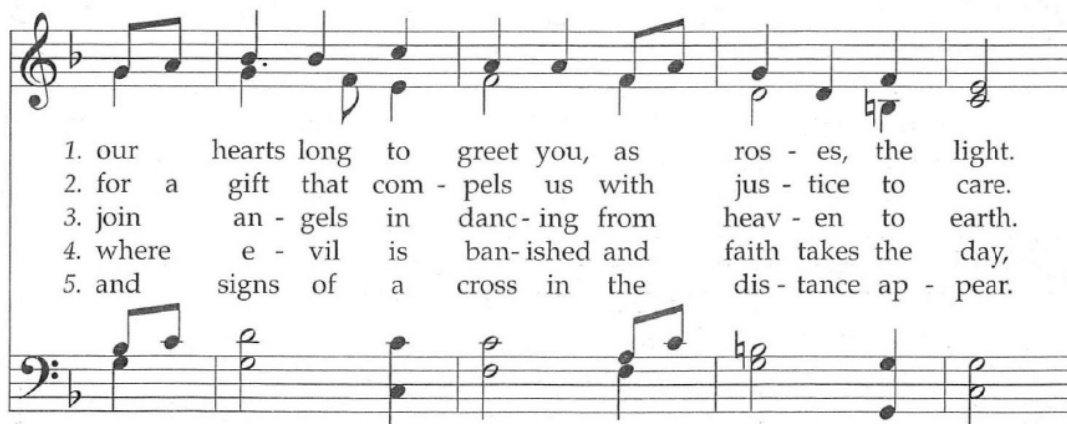
A service for those who
mourn at Christmas

One Candle Is Lit

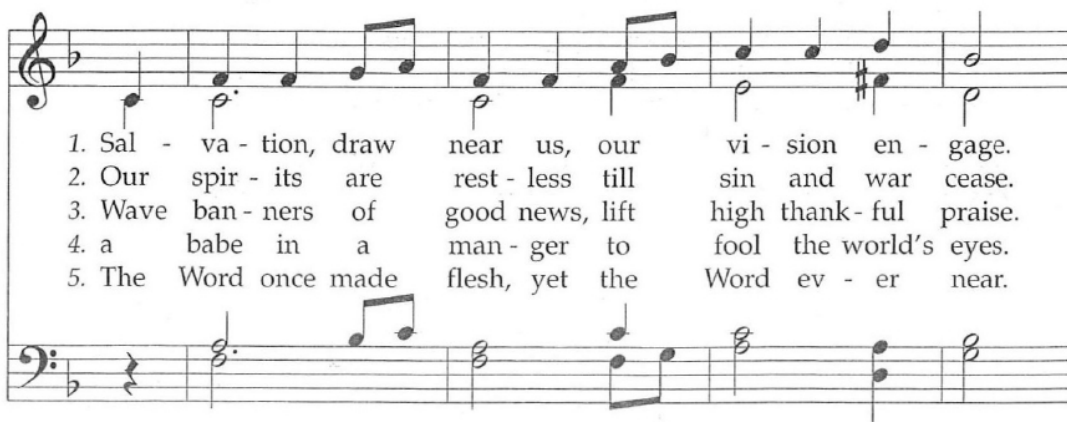
Unison



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.

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

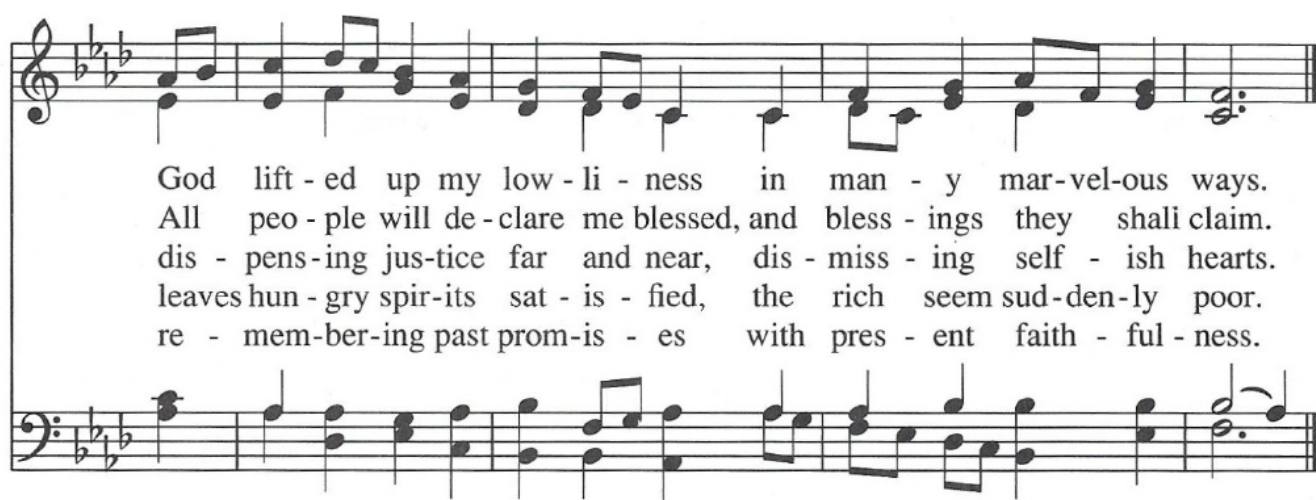
119

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar-vel-ous ways.
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
dis - pens-ing jus-tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
leaves hun - gry spir-its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud-den-ly poor.
re - mem-ber-ing past prom-is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen

(Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)

Isa. 11:1

German, 15th century; transl. Theodore Baker, 1894; alt.

1 Es ist ein' Ros ent - sprun-gen aus ein - er Wur - zel zart,
 1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem has sprung!
 2 I - sa-iah had fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,

wie uns die Al - ten sun - gen: von Jes - se kam die Art
 Of Jes-se's lin-eage com - ing as saints of old have sung.
 With Mar-y we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er kind.

und hat ein Blüm-lein bracht mit - ten im kal - ten
 It came a flower-et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to us a

der . . . hal - ben
 Win - ter wohl zu der hal - ben Nacht.
 win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.

Possibly dating from the fifteenth century, this anonymous hymn was first published in a Catholic hymnal in Germany, where the rose was held in special regard and was employed as a symbol for Mary or for Christ.

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
 Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1599
 Harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609

This Week at Big Red

Monday, Dec. 20

- ♦ **5:00pm:** Yoga (Nursery)
- ♦ Erica Out of Town

Tuesday, Dec. 21

- ♦ **7:00pm:** Longest Night Service (Minturn Chapel)
- ♦ Erica Out of Town

Wednesday, Dec. 22

- ♦ **8:00am:** Bible Study (Zoom)
- ♦ **5:00pm:** Yoga (Nursery)
- ♦ **6:00pm:** Handbell Rehearsal (Music Room)
- ♦ **7:00pm:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- ♦ Grapeleaf Submissions Due

Thursday, Dec. 23

- ♦ No Events

Friday, Dec. 24

- ♦ Office Closed
- ♦ **4:00pm:** Family Christmas Service (Sanctuary)
- ♦ **9:00pm:** Lessons & Carols

Saturday, Dec. 25

- ♦ Merry Christmas!

Sunday, Dec. 26

- ♦ **9:30am:** Worship (Sanctuary) Hymns & Carols Service

How To Make Your First Givelify Donation

- 1 Download the free Givelify app



- 2 Locate our church

- 3 Tap the Give button

- 4 Tap an amount

- 5 Select an envelope

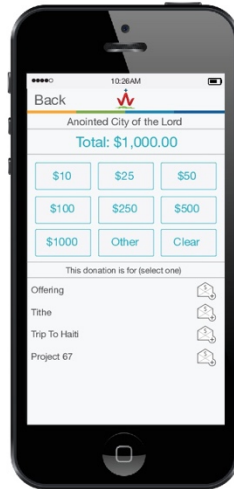
- 6 Tap Give Now

- 7 Create your account

- 8 Securely enter your payment information

- 9 Complete your donation

- Next time you use Givelify, you can save time with the **1-TAP GIVE NOW** button



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



First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

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

Office Manager

Erica Holland
office@bigredchurch.org

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Communications Coordinator

Gabe Hernandez

Caretaker

Pat Morales

Custodian

Gregory Chavarria

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Assisting in Today's Service

Readers: Peter & Mary Wall

Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

Music Director/Organist: Scott Horton

Ushers: Clifford Dodd, Hank Delcore,
Joel Bright

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.