

# Ash Wednesday

## March 2, 2022



Rev. Raygan Baker



First Congregational Church of Fresno

United Church of Christ

# 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.*

**Does your infant or toddler need a minute, a change, or a good cry?**

**Don’t worry, we’ve (literally) all been there.**

*The service is livestreaming in our Caring Room (Room 1) nearby, where there is space and supplies to help get what your child needs.*

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

**Prelude**

Scott Horton, piano

**Welcome**

Rev. Raygan Baker

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Wayne Brown

One: The season of Lent is a time when we recognize the ways we have moved away from God, a time when we look deeply into our lives and see the ways we have not lived faithfully. Lent is also a time of reorientation and renewal; a time of turning our hearts and minds back to God.

**All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

One: God is a God of abundant mercy, who seeks reconciliation with wayward Creation.

**All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

One: God is a God who constantly reaches out to us, inviting us into love, inviting us into life.

**All: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

One: The sacrifice which is pleasing to God is a contrite heart and a spirit of brokenness; let us turn to God humility and faith.

**All: God, you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Wash away our guilt, heal our brokenness, and draw us ever closer to you.**

**\*Collect**

Liturgist: Wayne Brown

***God of our salvation, as we enter into this sacred place, we come here to follow you. With courage we put away the pressures of the world that ask us to perform, to take up masks, and to put on brave fronts, and we dwell with all the wonder you created in us. In our worship, we follow your son, Jesus Christ, into a season of preparation, growing faith, and new life. Amen.***

**Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 58: 1-12, Psalm 51: 1-17

**Centering Music**

“O Breath of Life/Breathe on me, O Breath of God”  
-arr. P. Rodriguez

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

**Ash Wednesday Mediation**

Rev. Raygan Baker

**Centering Music**

“Jesus Priceless Treasure” -P. Rodriguez

**Invitation to Remember**

**Prayer of Confession**

***God of astounding mercy and grace, we are wounded, wayward, and often wearied; we need a real God. But now, we have gathered to acknowledge our desperate need to return to you and to renew our commitment to the ways of wisdom and life.***

***We recognize, O Lord, that we are simply dust. Remind us through these ashes of our dependence on you, and your devotion to us; that in life, in death, in life beyond death, you are with us. As we seek to follow you, may we know the strength of your Spirit, the discipline of your love, and the deep well of your wisdom.***

***As we receive the ashes upon our foreheads, have mercy on us according to your loving kindness. Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people you created us to be. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.***

***A moment of silent confession and reflection.***

**Imposition of Ashes**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Benediction**

**Depart in Silence**

## **First Congregational Church of Fresno**

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

Office Hours: Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

First Time Worshipping with Us? Text “New” to (559) 425-4050 and fill out the Connect 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/ Event Coordinator**

Pat Morales

### **Custodian**

Gregory Chavarria

### **Accountant**

Penny Leas Peterson

### **FCCF Open and Affirming Statement**

### **Assisting in Today's Service**

Liturgist: Wayne Brown

Centering Music: Scott Horton

Ushers: Faye Saxton,  
Pat Morales

Technician: Erica Holland

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.