

# Against Nature: *And What is “Natural,” Anyway?* June 26, 2022



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Raygan Baker

# 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, organ

**Welcome**

Rev. Raygan Baker

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Christopher Williams

Together, we make up the body of Christ.

**We need one another in order to be whole.**

Wherever one of us is in pain,  
**our whole body aches.**

Whenever one of us is cut off,  
**the whole body is wounded.**

We strive to answer the call of Christ  
**by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone.**

**\*Hymn**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

#12, pew hymnal

**Opening Prayer**

Liturgist: Christopher Williams

***Holy God,***

***We look for you all around us but always, you are as close as our own breath. You linger in our very flesh. Forgive us for our struggles to remember you linger, also, in the flesh of all our neighbors. The ones attacked, the ones policed, the ones condemned, the ones who are hungry, the ones turned away. In those we wound, you are wounded also, but when we honor the flesh of another, you are honored too. May it be so in us, Amen.***

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 2:23-3:6

**Special Music**

“The Lord’s Prayer” -A.H. Malotte

Justin Larson, soloist  
Scott Horton, piano

**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**

Genesis 2:4-24

Liturgist: Christopher Williams

**Sermon**

Against Nature: *And What is “Natural,” Anyway?*  
*Romans 11:11-24*

**\*Hymn**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

#522, 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.**

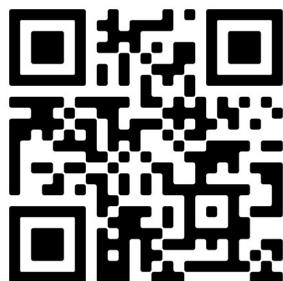
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## Prayers of the Church

### Invitation to Generosity

Liturgist: Christopher Williams

*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 with your smartphone camera.*
- ⇒ *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

“The Good Shepherd” -Beardsley van de Water

Justin Larson, soloist  
Scott Horton, piano

### \*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!**

### \*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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### Postlude

“Tuba Tune in D” -C.S. Lang

Scott Horton, organ

*It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude*

### We Go Out to Love and Serve the World

*Descant*

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,  
 2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.  
 God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.  
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;  
 Oh, how your won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye:  
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
 If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!  
 Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres-ent there.



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.

# 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

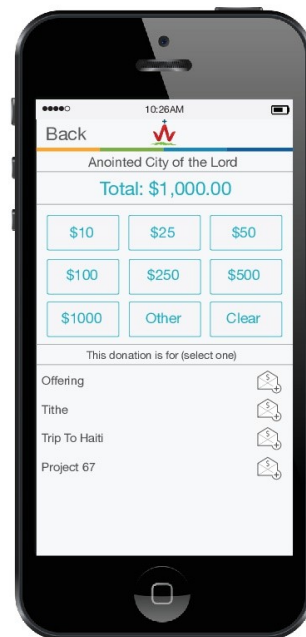
- 6 Tap Give Now

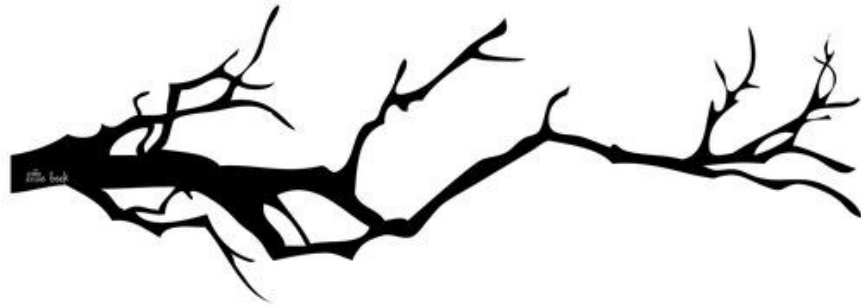
- 7 Create your account

- 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





# Roots & Branches

Biblical Exploration and  
Small Group Discussion

Every Sunday

9:00am

Fireside Room



## This Week at Big Red

### Monday, June 27

- ♦ **5:00pm:** Yoga (Nursery)

### Friday, July 1

- ♦ **5:00pm:** Yoga (Nursery)

### Tuesday, June 28

- ♦ No Events

### Saturday, July 2

- ♦ No Events

### Wednesday, June 29

- ♦ **8:00am:** Bible Study (Zoom)
- ♦ **5:00pm:** Yoga (Nursery)
- ♦ Grapeleaf Submissions due

### Sunday, July 3

- ♦ **9:00am:** Roots & Branches (Fireside)
- ♦ **10:00am:** Worship (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, June 30

- ♦ No Events

## **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 Worshiping 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

### **Custodian**

Gregory Chavarria

### **Caretaker/ Event Coordinator**

Pat Morales

### **Technicians**

Karisa Garza  
Brad Jenkins  
Erica Holland

### **Accountant**

Penny Leas Peterson

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

Music Director/Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Christopher Williams

Special Music: Justin Larson, soloist

Ushers: Harold Householder, Lester Leas, Richard van Wyhe

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.