

Communion Sunday

September 4, 2022



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Simon Biasell
Guest Minister

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.

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

Prelude

Hymn Sing

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell
Guest Minister

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Nancy Mack

All you overworked and underpaid

All you tied to a paycheck for survival

All you over the hustle, the grind, the doing more with less

All you fighting for rights and safety

All you scrambling for affordable housing

All you figuring out how to pay the grocery bill

All you weary in mind, body, and spirit

All you tired of being tired

Come! The liberating God renounces systems of exploitation
and longs for all people to be free!

.

***Hymn**

“Now in the Days of Youth”

#350, pew hymnal

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Nancy Mack

Most merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

You call to us through the voices of the poor and the powerless,

But we close ourselves off from their need:

You call to us through the cries of those who struggle
to change structures of oppression,

but we turn away from their challenge:

You hint, you invite, you surround us with calls to love you more fully,
and follow you more faithfully,

but we cling to comfort and safety:

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your abundant ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

(A silence is held for personal prayer and reflection)

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Nancy Mack

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

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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Holy Communion

Invitation and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The peace of Christ be with you,

and also with you.

Time for Discovery

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.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God,
We thank you, God of compassion, for nourishing us with the bread of life and the cup of hope.
As in Christ your love flowed out to those around him,
So let your love flow through us to others.
As in Christ your life was broken, so let your life meet us in our brokenness and release
hope in us and others,
through Jesus the bringer of hope, peace, Child of joy and love to the world. Amen.

Scripture Reading:
Sermon

Mark 1:40-45

Liturgist: Nancy Mack

***Hymn**

"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" #551, 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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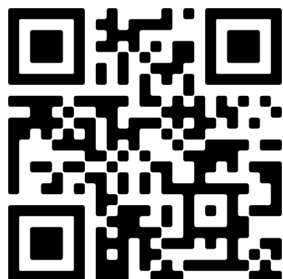
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Prayer of the Church

Invitation to Generosity

Liturgist: Nancy Mack

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

"On Eagles Wings" - M. Joncas

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

“ "Laughing with the Moon" - J. Cotter

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World



14th Annual Chamber Concert

September 18, 2022 - 3:00 p.m.

Join Us For An Afternoon of Music

- featuring -

Catherine English, and Terry Estabrook, vocalists

Gina Fazio, Matthew Horton, Jane Davis Maldonado, and Robert Maldonado, piano

Scott Horton, pipe organ

The program offers a great variety of keyboard chamber music for
voice, piano duet, two piano, and solo organ

- performing masterworks from -

Bach, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Desmond, Gliere, Holst,
Moszkowski, Rossini, and Schumann

This Week at Big Red

Monday, Sept 5

- ♦ **Labor Day** - Office is closed

Wednesday, Sept 7

- ♦ **8:00 am:** Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ **5:00 pm:** Yoga - Nursery
- ♦ **6:00 pm:** Hand bell rehearsal
Music Room
- ♦ **7:00 pm:** Chancel Choir
rehearsal—Sanctuary
- ♦ Grape Leaf submissions due

Friday, Sep 9

- ♦ **5:00 pm:** Yoga - Nursery

Sunday, Sep 11

- ♦ **9:00 am:** Roots & Branches
Fireside Room
- ♦ **10:00am:** Welcome Back Sunday
Sanctuary
- ♦ **11:00 am:** Ice Cream Social
Fellowship Hall

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

Kymberly Lindsey, Acting
Office@bigredchurch.org

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Custodian

Gregory Chavarria

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Technicians

Karisa Garza
Bradley Jenkins

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Char Lund

Ushers: Harold Householder, Lester Lease, Richard Van Wyhe

Technician: Bradley 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.

Now in the Days of Youth

350

Walter J. Mathams, 1913; alt.
Adapt. Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1992

Eccles. 12:1; 1 Cor. 16:13; Deut. 30:19–20

1 Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when
 2 Teach us to use our lives with pur - pose and with power for
 3 Teach us to love in truth, to give and to re - ceive with
 4 Teach-er, Cre - a - tor, God, en - fold us in your arms; be

hope and doubt touch ev - ery hour, when all thoughts find a voice,
 vi - sions of a bet - ter world and for de - ci - sion's hour;
 joy - ful and with o - pen hearts, with all that we be - lieve;
 with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.

We turn, O God, to you for guid-ance and for grace. In
 To choose the way of life, re - ject the way of death, un -
 To seek an - oth - er's good, to hon - or what is right, to
 All good and per - fect gifts come to us from your hand. O

all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.
 til the ra - diant force of God fills mind and strength and breath.
 let our will and our de - sire be held in ho - ly light.
 help us use them care - ful - ly and live by love's com - mand.

When the Rev. Walter J. Mathams of London wrote this hymn for use at Christian Endeavor and Sunday School conventions, he did not realize it would receive wide circulation. It was introduced in the United States in 1913 in *Worship and Song*.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
George J. Elvey, 1868

Luke 18:35-43

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915); alt.

1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;
 2 Let me at your throne of mer - cy find a sweet re - lief;
 3 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it, would I seek your face;
 4 Be the Spring of all my com - fort, more than life to me;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, help my un - be - lief.
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, save me by your grace.
 Not just here on earth be - side me, but e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain

Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.

Fanny Crosby was already a successful writer when she became associated with gospel hymnists Sankey, Sweney, Root, and others. She directed her talent to gospel songs in her early forties, and collaborated with William Doane on many hymns.

Tune: PASS ME NOT 8.5.8.5. with refrain
 William H. Doane (1832-1915)

