

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 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?

Fill out a "Welcome" card , located in the slot next to Hymnal, and place in offering plate

**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 "Preludio" from *Ricercare* - Castelnuovo-Tedesco Jane Davis Maldonado &
 "Hymn" from *Jupiter* - Holst Robert Maldonado, piano
 "Abendlied" - R. Schumann
 "A Festive Entrada" - C. Dobrinski

Hand Bells

Welcome

Rev. Raygan Baker

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Parker Chamberlin

It takes faith to embark on a journey,
especially a journey not of our choosing.

It takes faith to make the first step and then another and another.
It takes faith to name our fears and boldly go.

It takes faith to embrace what is new and different, unfamiliar or downright scary.
It takes faith to journey with God into the unknown.

Here we journey in the presence of God,
and we do not journey alone.

***Hymn**

"From All That Dwells Below the Skies"

#27 Pew Hymnal

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Parker Chamberlin

***Holy God,
You call us beyond the limits we set for ourselves and each other. In this time
and in your presence, lift our weary spirits, deepen our questions
and our faith, and give us the eyes and hearts to see your economy of bless-
ing around us, so that by your grace, we may become the blessing our world
needs. Amen.***

Scripture Reading:

Luke 16:1-13

Liturgist: Parker Chamberlin

Special Music

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing (Ring)” - arr. Simpson

Hand bells

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 12:1-9

Liturgist: Parker Chamberlin

Sermon

***Hymn**

“What a Covenant”

#471Pew 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

Prayers of the Church

Invitation to Generosity

Liturgist: Parker Chamberlin

Offertory

"Love Lifted Me" - J. Martin

Chancel Choir &
John Morrice, violin



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.*

*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 Finale from "Fugue in E-flat Major" (St. Anne) - J.S. Bach Scott Horton,
organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World

Are you thinking about becoming a member of First Congregational Church of Fresno, then save these dates:

October 1, 10:30 am: Prospective Members' Brunch

October 9, 10:00 am: New member worship service



25
Sept
2022

2nd Annual
JAZZ
on Van Ness
From 4 pm to 7pm

Appetizers ~ Desserts ~ Refreshments ~ Cash Bar ~ Silent Auction

Tickets \$35 per person
Reserve a table of 8 for \$250



This Week at Big Red

Monday, Sept 19

- ♦ **5:00 pm:** Yoga—Nursery

Tuesday, Sept 20

- ♦ **6:00pm:** Council Meeting
Fellowship

Wednesday, Sept 21

- ♦ **8:00 am:** Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ **3:30 pm:** Grape Leaf submission
deadline - office@bigredchurch.org
- ♦ **5:00 pm:** Yoga - Nursery
- ♦ **6:00 pm:** Hand bell rehearsal
Music Room
- ♦ **7:00 pm:** Chancel Choir
rehearsal—Sanctuary

Thursday, Sept 22

- ♦ **8:00am:** Resource Fair

Friday, Sep 23

- ♦ **10:00am:** Pantry Food Distribution
prep - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ **3:30 pm:** Grapevine submission
deadline - office@bigredchurch.org
- ♦ **5:00pm:** Yoga - Nursery

Saturday Sept 24

- ♦ **10:00am:** Big Red Pantry Food
Distribution

Sunday, Sep 25

- ♦ **9:00 am:** Roots & Branches
Fireside Room
- ♦ **10:00am:** Worship- Sanctuary
- ♦ **11:00am:** Coffee Hour
Fellowship Hall
- ♦ **4:00 pm:** Jazz on Van Ness
Fellowship Hall



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

First Congregational Church of Fresno - 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. (South of Clinton)

This is a free concert. A free will offering will be collected to benefit the Casavant Pipe Organ

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

Pastor

Rev. Raygan Baker

rbaker@bigredchurch.org

Acting Office Manager

Kymberly Lindsey,

Office@bigredchurch.org

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Custodian

Gregory Chavarria

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Technicians

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Parker Chamberlin

Ushers: Mike Gostanaian

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.

From All That Dwell below the Skies

27

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 117

Unison

1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre-a-tor's praise a-
2 E-ter-nal are your mer-cies, God; your truth stands ev-er high and

(Harmony) *(Unison)*

rise; Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Let the Re-deem-er's name be
broad: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Your praise shall sound from shore to

(Harmony)

sung through ev-ery land, by ev-ery tongue. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

(Unison)

lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Isaac Watts, author of more than 600 hymns, paraphrased the two verses of Psalm 117 into this two-stanza hymn, which was included in his *Psalms of David*, 1719. The tune originated in a German Catholic hymnal.

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN
8.8.4.4.8.8. with alleluias
Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887