

New Member Sunday Service

October 9, 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 "Suite Gothique" - L. Boellmann Scott Horton, organ
Welcome Rev. Raygan Baker
***Call to Worship** Liturgist: Wayne Brown

In the days of Noah,
God placed a rainbow in the sky
as a covenant and sign
of God's love for all the earth.

**In the colors of the rainbow,
we see the sign of God's grace for all creation.**

In the days of Moses,
the words of God were written on tablets of stone,
as the sign of a covenant
between God and all of God's people.

**In the tablets of stone,
we see the sign of God's hope
for all to live in peace with God and neighbor.**

In the days of the prophets,
God promised to place a new covenant in our hearts.

**As members of the living Body of Christ,
we see the sign of God's promise among us.**

***Hymn** "Holy, Holy, Holy" #277 , pew hymnal

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Wayne Brown

***O God, our God,
We confess that we have not always lived for you. You have invited us into new life, yet we have closed our eyes and ears and hearts against that invitation. You have shown us the way to love, yet we have chosen too often the path of uncaring. You have called us to the ministry of reconciliation, yet often we find ourselves tempted to turn away from others. You have challenged us to generosity, but many times we would rather keep to ourselves. Enter our lives, God, once again. Release us from the bonds of self-centeredness. Create in us a renewed openness to your love, that we may share your love with others. Amen.***

(A silence is held for personal prayer and reflection)

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Wayne Brown

Scripture Reading: Luke 17:11-19

New Members

**Alison & Parker Chamberlin
Jessie Betancourt & Steven Navarro
Dolores Torres
Janice Harms
Pauline Phillips**

Moderator: Siblings in Christ, it is the Spirit of God that draws us to the church and we, the church body, welcome that Spirit by welcoming one another. Hear the good news: these people have found nurture and support in our midst and seek covenantal relationship with us. In a covenantal relationship, we share a set of promises with God and with one another, and we respond to the gracious work of God by sharing in God's action and mission in the world. By welcoming them, we recognize that each one brings us something we need, in order to be all that God intends. This mutual ministry is what we celebrate today.

Pastor: Dear Friends, I introduce to you the people of First Congregational Church, Fresno UCC. Is it your wish to make this community of faith, your church family, and the people with whom you will share your journey of faith? Is this the place and are these the people with whom you will seek to make sense of the issues of your life; your dreams, your faith, who you are, what you are to do, who God calls you to be?

Is it your wish to make this the place where you continue your journey into greater health and wholeness; where you listen to the story of God's salvation and the Good News of Jesus Christ, allowing Jesus to be an example and teacher to you, where you are called to a life of ministry and justice; and where you are fed at the table of new life?

New Members: Yes, it is my wish.

Honoring the Spirit revealed in the paradoxical, will you live the questions of our faith, open to the continuing revelation of our still speaking God?

New Members: I promise, with the help of God.

Claiming God's grace abundant in our common life, will you covenant together to cherish inquiry, embrace diversity, and honor vulnerability?

New Members: I promise, with the help of God.

Will you who are members of this faith community who are witnessing these promises, share the joys and sorrows, and do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ:

Congregation: We will, with the help of God.

Moderator: Will you welcome Alison, Parker, Jessie, Steven, Dolores, Janice, and Pauline into this family of First Congregational, embrace their gifts, their needs, and their dreams? Will you recognize that their presence and participation will change the shape of the body and help it grow in new ways? Will you support them in their journeys, and assist them in their ministries?

Congregation: We will, with the help of God.

Beloved church, let us join together in spirit and pray the covenant of our ancestors in faith back to the Salem Covenant of 1629:

ALL:

"We covenant with Christ and one with another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of the Spirit to walk together in all God's ways, according as God is pleased to be revealed to us in the word and experience of truth."

Anthem "Praise the Lord with Jubilant Song" - M.L. Lightfoot 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.**

Holy Communion

Invitation and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The peace of Christ be with you,
and also with you.

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.*

Breaking, Pouring, Feasting

Thanksgiving After the Meal

*Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17

Liturgist: Wayne Brown

Sermon

*Hymn "

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

#397 , 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.**

Prayers of the Church

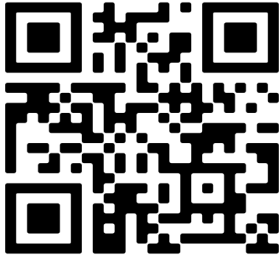
Invitation to Generosity

Liturgist: Wayne Brown

Offertory

“Lord I Stretch My Hands to You” - J. Althouse

Chancel Choir



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 "Toccata, from Suite Gothique" - L. Boellmann Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World

News from the pews...

The FCCF Council has appointed an Interim Search Committee, whose responsibility it is to recommend an interim candidate to Council. They will develop and post a job description for the interim pastor position. They will then receive profiles from ministers interested in the position and will forward a candidate to FCCF Council for selection and approval.

The Interim Search Committee members are:

Peter Wall - chair Hank Delcore Judy Oftedal

Lisa Davenport Sandy Klassen

Maggie Kalashian Georgette Carillo

First Congregational Church of Fresno

presents a

BACHTOBER CONCERT

Featuring the Organ Works of

Johann Sebastian Bach



Sunday, October 16, at 3:00 p.m.

Scott Horton, organist

Admission Free - Freewill Offering to support the Casavant Pipe Organ

First Congregational Church of Fresno, U.C.C.
2131 North Van Ness Boulevard
Information: 227-8489

This Week at Big Red

Monday, Oct 10

- ◆ **5:00 pm:** Yoga—Nursery

Tuesday, Oct 11

Wednesday, Oct 12

- ◆ **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, Oct 13

Friday, Oct 14

- ◆ **3:30 pm:** Grapevine submission deadline - office@bigredchurch.org
- ◆ **5:00pm:** Yoga - Nursery

Saturday Oct 15

- ◆ **8:00am:** Live Scan Mobile event for employees and volunteers - front of Sanctuary
- ◆ **9:30am:** Crop Walk - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Oct 16

- ◆ **9:00 am:** Roots & Branches
Fireside Room
- ◆ **10:00am:** Worship service
Sanctuary
- ◆ **11:00am:** Coffee Hour
Fellowship Hall
- ◆ **3:00pm:** Bachtobber Concert
Sanctuary

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

Office Administrator

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: Wayne Brown

Ushers: Lester Leas, Harold Householder, Richard Van Whye

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.