

Baptism And Communion Sunday

October 30, 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 the Hymnal and place in offering plate during service

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 with what your child may need.

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

Prelude Organ Chorale Settings on "Ein' Feste Burg" Scott Horton, organ

Welcome Rev. Raygan Baker

***Call to Worship** Liturgist: Dolores Torres

In every place, in every moment, God is present with us.

**In this place, at this moment, we are called
to be totally aware of God's presence.**

Come, let us strip away every pretense and every defense, that we may be made new in communion with our God.

Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn** "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" #439, pew hymnal

Prayer of Confession Liturgist: Dolores Torres

***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: Dolores Torres

Scripture Reading

Luke 19:1-10

Anthem

"Sing to the Lord" - Vivaldi/Hopson

Chancel Choir

Time for Discovery: Baptism of Ellie Stephenson

**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.**

Gordon Light, ©1994 Common Cup Company

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Invitation

Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
One God and Creator of us all.

Questions

Concluding with:

Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament,
promise your love, support, and care
to the one about to be baptized,
as she lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Welcome

...Let us welcome the newly baptized.

***With joy and thanksgiving
we welcome you into Christ's church
to share with us in his ministry,
for we are all one in Christ.***

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

*God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body.
Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us,
a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment,
courage, and care. Amen.*

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 3:4-28

Liturgist: Dolores Torres

Sermon

*Hymn

"Be Now My Vision"

#451, 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.

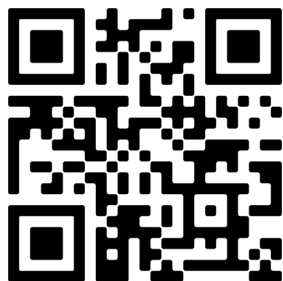
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Prayer of the Church

Invitation to Generosity

Liturgist: Dolores Torres

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

"Invention No.13 in A Minor, BWV 784" - J.S. Bach Scott Horton,
organ

*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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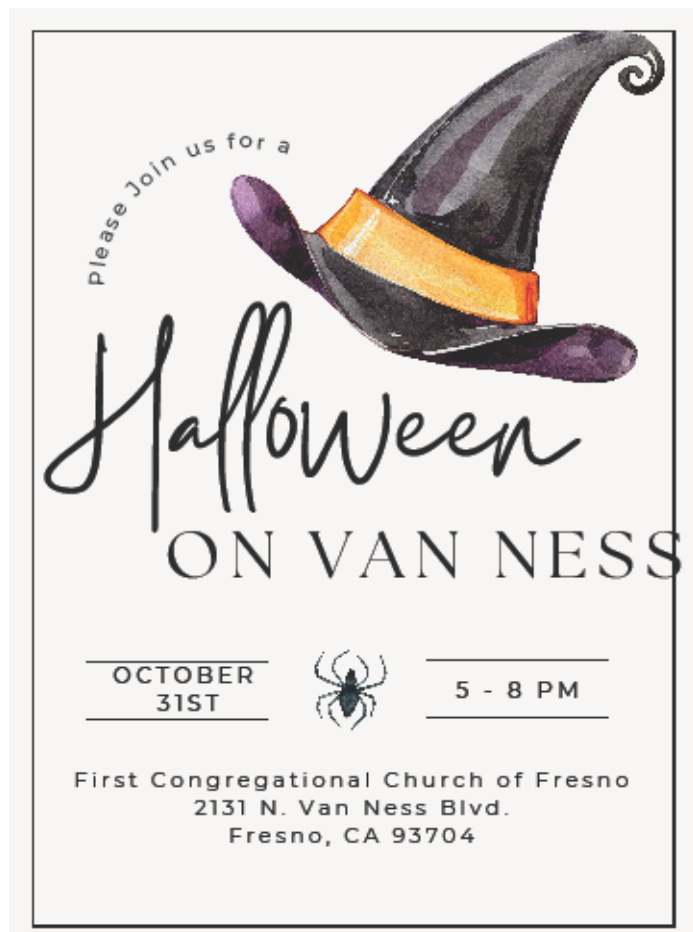
Postlude

"A Mighty Fortress" - W. Wold

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World



**Come join the fun with your family
and friends.**



**Come and support the Big Red
Church Pantry , coupons available
in Fellowship Hall after service or
in the church office until 3:30
Thursday.**

This Week at Big Red

Monday Oct 31

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 5:00pm: Halloween on Van Ness - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Nov 1

Wednesday Nov 2

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 6:00pm: Hand Bell rehearsal Music Room
- ♦ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday Nov 3

- ♦ All Day - Pantry Fundraiser - The Old Spaghetti Factory (coupon required)

Friday Nov 4

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday Nov 5

Sunday Nov 6

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: Dolores Torres

Ushers: Brue Owdom, Sue Karibian, Bob McParland

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Kymberly Lindsey

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.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Ps. 46

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
 3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
 4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;

Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.

For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to
 The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may

great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
 save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant.
 dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
 kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.

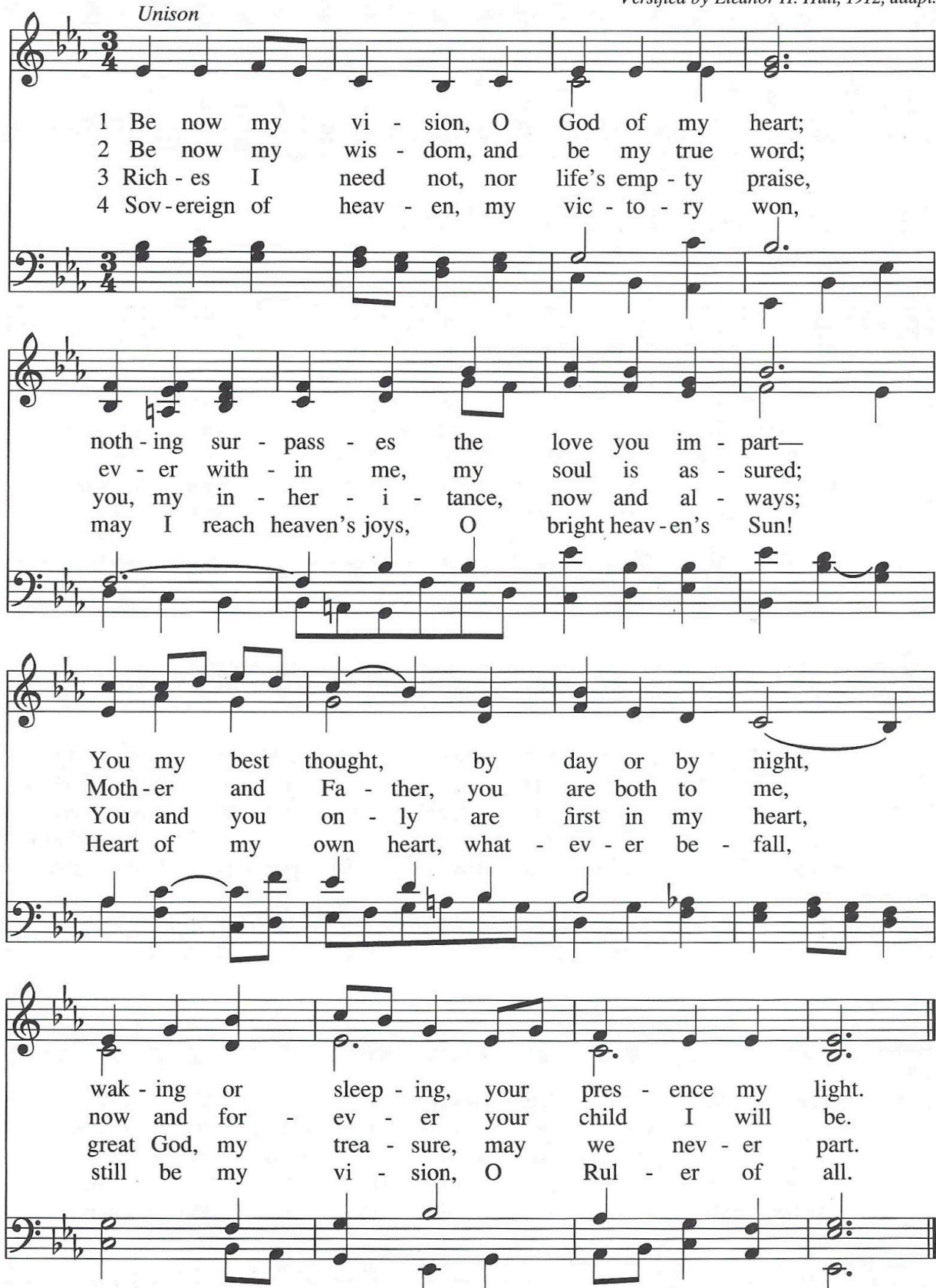
There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake, or in 1529, when Lutheran German princes protested the revocation of their liberties. It has been translated into more than fifty languages.

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.
 Martin Luther, c. 1529
 Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.
 For another version, see 440

Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

Unison



1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

*Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
Traditional Irish melody
Harm. David Evans, 1927*