

Baptism Sunday

November 13, 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 Chorale Settings on "Nun danket alle Gott" Scott Horton, organ
 "Now Thank We All Our God" - arr. K. McChesney Handbells

Welcome Rev. Raygan Baker

***Call to Worship** Liturgist: Charlene Lund

God is the hope of people laboring for freedom.

God is a refuge in times of uncertainty.

Even in struggle, Her offerings are an abundance.

Her grace calls us down from seats of unjust power.

She unveils the heavens within and around us.

She sets before us feasts of beauty and possibility.

Come and gather with joy.

Here we journey in the presence of God,

and we do not journey alone.

***Hymn** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" #25, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer Liturgist: Charlene Lund

Holy God,

Sustaining One, these are serious times. We feel the significance of the coming days and weeks. We hold in mind and heart our beloveds, neighbors, and all who feel vulnerable. In our anxieties, our fears, and our longings, bring your peace that enables courage, and plant us firmly in your love that will not be overcome. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 21:5-19

Liturgist: Charlene Lund

Special Music

"For All the Saints" - arr. J. Krug

Handbells

Time for Discovery: Baptism of Selena Agüero, Dominick Schoelen-Aguero and Jessie Schoelen

**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 those about to be baptized,
as they live and grow 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.***

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

Micah 1:3-5; 5:2-5a; 6:6-8

Liturgist: Charlene Lund

Sermon

*Hymn

"My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff"

#418, pew hymnal

Invitation to Prayer

Sung Call to Prayer

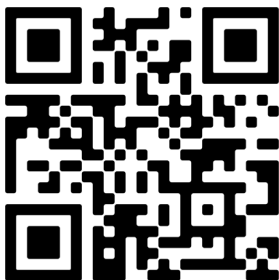
**Lord, listen to your children praying:
Lord send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying:
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

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Prayer of the Church

Invitation to Generosity

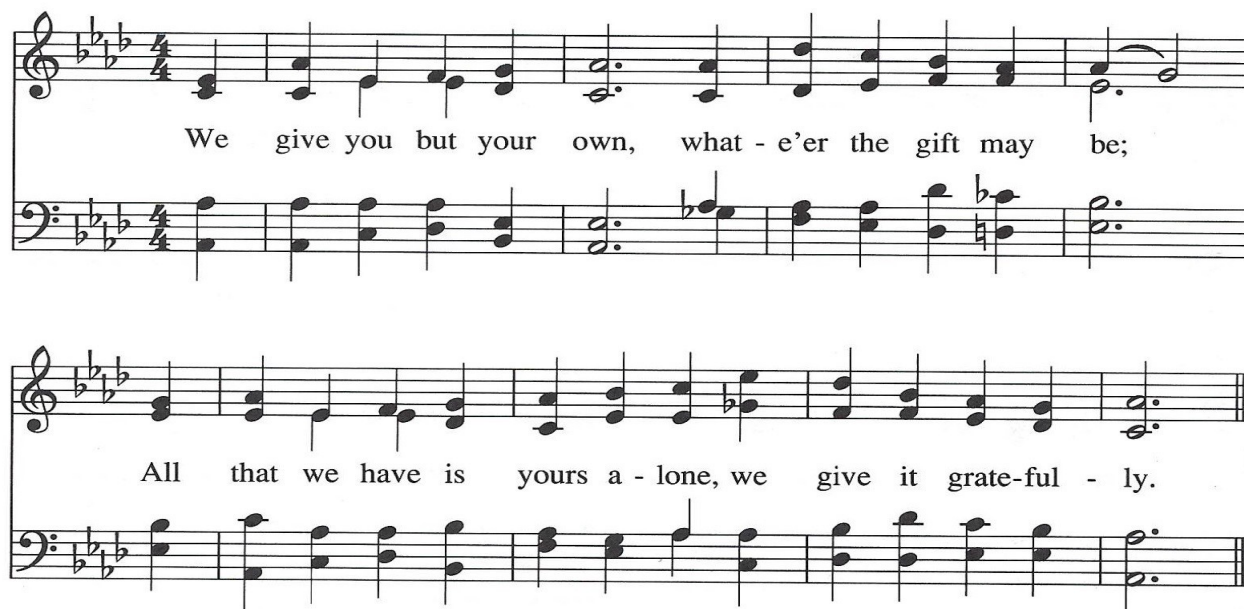
Liturgist: Charlene Lund



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**



The musical score is for a doxology in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major (two flats). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "We give you but your own, what - e'er the gift may be;". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment with the lyrics: "All that we have is yours a - lone, we give it grate-ful - ly." The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

***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

"Nun danket alle Gott, BWV 79" - Bach/Fox

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World

Advent Family Time
December 4th in the Fellowship Hall
Immediately following worship
service. Fun for the entire family!





Our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon is next Sunday, November 20th, immediately following worship service. Please come join this special fellowship time. Everyone is welcome, members and visitors alike.

If you'd like to share a dish, there is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up to bring an old family favorite or a new sumptuous creation of your choosing. You may also sign up to bring a pie (any kind).

There'll be turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, trimmings and fixin's galore! Please join us.



*Featuring the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir
& Musicians of First Congregational Church*

First Congregational Church of Fresno

"The Big Red Church"

2131 N. Van Ness Boulevard

Fresno, CA 93704

559.227.8489

Free Concert - Free-will offering will benefit the Casavant Pipe Organ Fund

This Week at Big Red

Monday November 14

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, November 15

- ♦ 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting - Parlor

Wednesday November 16

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

Thursday November 17

- ♦ 2:00pm: Ministry of Outreach meeting - Parlor

Friday November 18

- ♦ 9:00am: BRC Pantry food distribution prep - location TBD
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday November 19

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Pantry food distribution - Room 1

Sunday November 20

- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service of Release - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:30am: Thanksgiving luncheon - 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

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: Charlene Lund

Ushers: Richard Van Wyhe, Harold Householder, Lester Leas

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Melinda Mobley

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.

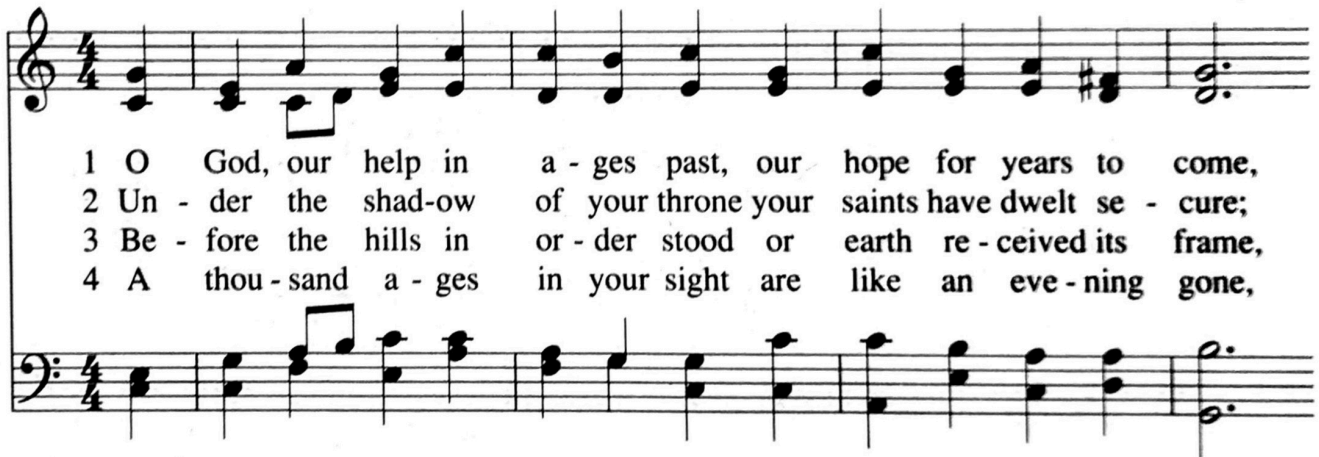
As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation. We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

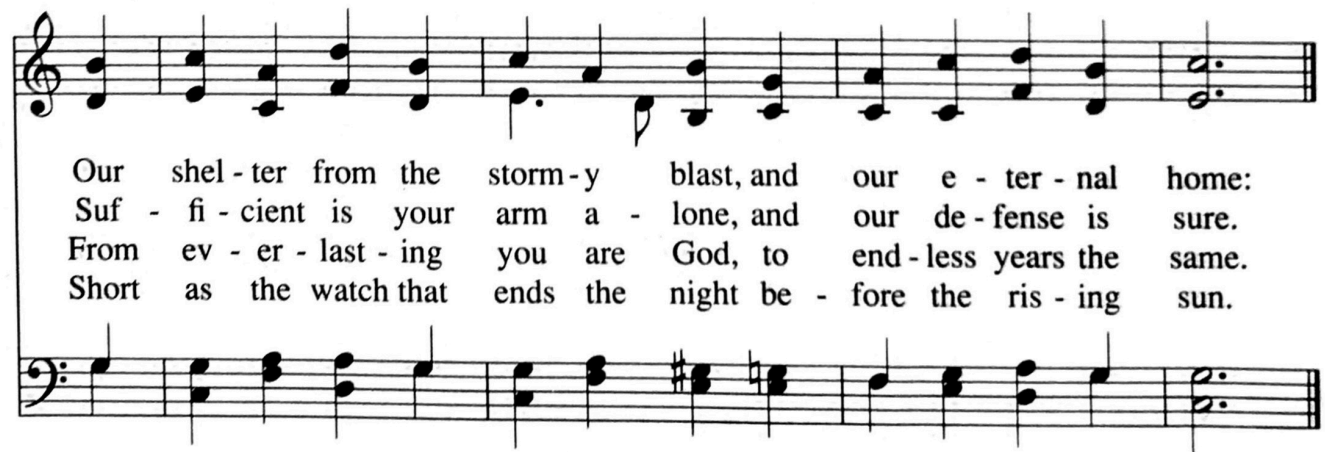
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Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

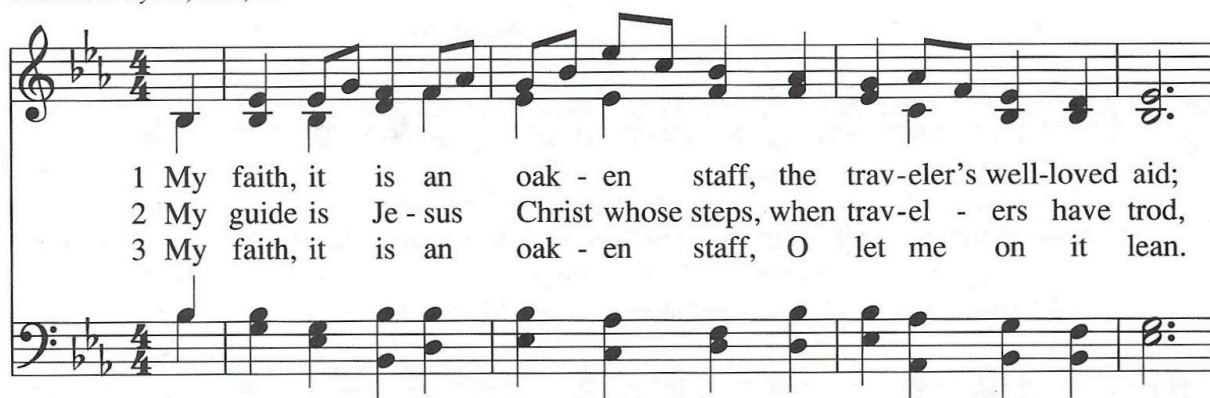
5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pen-ing day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

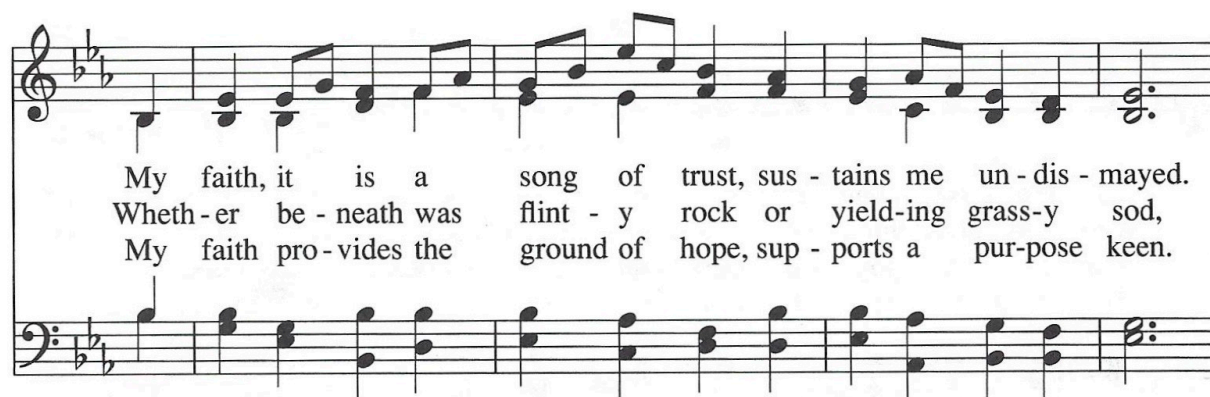
My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

418

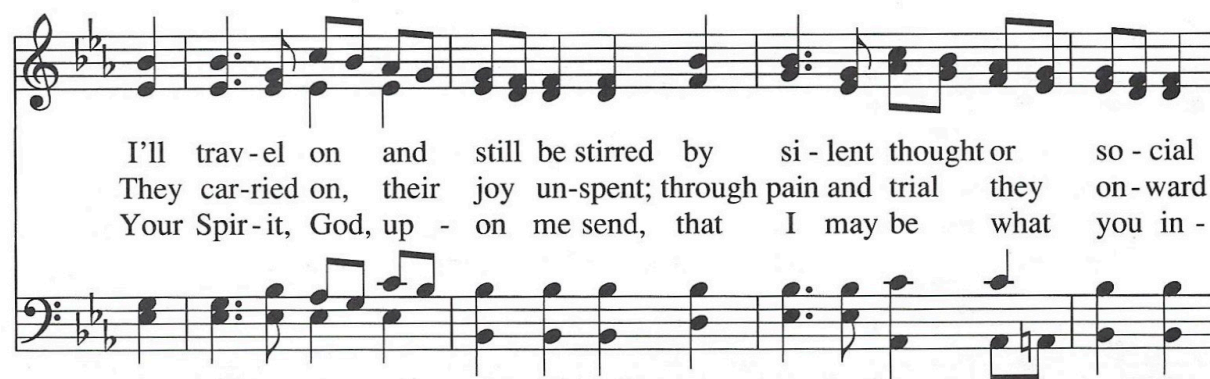
Thomas T. Lynch, 1855; alt.




1 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, the trav-eler's well-loved aid;
 2 My guide is Je - sus Christ whose steps, when trav-el - ers have trod,
 3 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, O let me on it lean.



My faith, it is a song of trust, sus - tains me un - dis - mayed.
 Wheth - er be - neath was flint - y rock or yield-ing grass-y sod,
 My faith pro - vides the ground of hope, sup - ports a pur - pose keen.



I'll trav - el on and still be stirred by si - lent thought or so - cial
 They car - ried on, their joy un - spent; through pain and trial they on - ward
 Your Spir - it, God, up - on me send, that I may be what you in -



word; By all my per - ils un - de - terred, a pil - grim un - a - fraid.
 went, Un - stayed by plea - sure, still they bent their zeal - ous course to God.
 tend. With pa - tient cour - age, we'll con - tend as ra - diant saints se - rene.

A gifted Congregational minister in London, Thomas Toke Lynch was the subject of controversy within the churches upon the publication of his hymn collection, The Rivulet, which received poor reviews. This hymn was labeled Lynch's "best" when it appeared in Congregational Praise (1951).

Tune: THE STAFF OF FAITH 8.6.8.6.8.8.6.
 Swiss folk melody
 Fellowship Hymn Book, 1910