

# Thanksgiving Sunday

November 20, 2022



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Davena Jones, Guest Preaching  
Associate Conference Minister,  
NCNC-UCC

# 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.*

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

**Prelude**      "Violin Sonata No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 12 No. 3"      John Morrice, violin  
                         I. Allegro con spirito; III. Rondo: Allegro molto      David Fox, piano

**Welcome**      Pastor Raygan Baker  
                         Rev. Davena Jones  
                         Jeannie Hobson, Vice Moderator

**\*Call to Worship**      Liturgist: Kymberly Lindsey

Beloveds, the Holy One gathers us together with purpose:

**To dream of futures yet imagined.**

To bolster our courage before powers and principalities.

**To nurture our love for one another.**

God's blessing is upon us as we come to wrestle:

**with meaning and justice,**

with questions of love,

**and the callings upon our lives.**

**\*Hymn**      "Come, O Thankful People, Come"      #422, pew hymnal

**Opening Prayer**      Liturgist: Kymberly Lindsey

***Holy God,***

***God who calls and sends, you have poured out your Spirit upon us all.***

***You raise us as prophets, healers, teachers, artists, companions, and seekers. With courage and humility, you ask us to live faithfully to these gifts and to one another. May we encourage and be encouraged in living our deepest truths. Amen.***

**Anthem**

**“Song of Thanksgiving”**

Chancel Choir  
John Morrice, violin

**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**

Matthew 13:33-35

Liturgist Kymberly Lindsey

**Sermon**

Rev. Davena Jones

**\*Hymn**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

#419, 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: Kymberly Lindsey



*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

"Fairest Lord Jesus" - arr. J. Schrader

Chancel Choir

## \*Doxology

We give you but your own, what - e'er the gift may be;

The first line of musical notation for the Doxology is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in 4/4 time. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "We give you but your own, what - e'er the gift may be;"

All that we have is yours a - lone, we give it grate-ful - ly.

The second line of musical notation for the Doxology continues the melody and bass line from the first line. The lyrics are: "All that we have is yours a - lone, we give it grate-ful - ly."



## Come, O Thankful People, Come

Exod. 23:16

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.

St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.

*Descant*

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;  
 2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,  
 3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

and for these our songs we raise, grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.

all is safe-ly gath-ered in as the win-ter storms be-gin;  
 all the fruits in full sup-ply, rip-en'd 'neath the sum-mer sky,  
 and for these our songs we raise, grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.

Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

God our Mak-er does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;  
 All that spring with boun-teous hand scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land,  
 Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home,  
 all that lib-eral au-tumn pours from its rich o'er-flow-ing stores,  
 come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.

# SONG OF THANKSGIVING

for congregation

Words by **JULIA C. CORY**, alt.

Arranged by **HAL H. HOPSON**

16th century Dutch melody

## INTRODUCTION

**STANZA 1** We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
(Choir) in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;  
we bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

**STANZA 2** We worship You, God of our mothers and fathers;  
(Choir) through life's storm and tempest our guide You have been.  
When perils o'take us, You never will forsake us,  
and with Your help, O God, in life's struggles we win.

**STANZA 3** With voices united our praises we offer,  
(Choir) and gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.  
Our sins now confessing, we pray for our blessing;  
to You, our Redeemer, forever be praise!

## STANZA 4 (Choir and congregation)



We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor,



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel — and a - dore You;



we bless Your ho - ly name, — glad prais - es we sing.

**Ending: (Choir)** We praise You, O God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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# Nun danket alle Gott

(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20–24; 39:35; Ps. 67

Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

1 Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,  
 1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,  
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;  
 Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,  
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
 To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an  
 Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way  
 And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
 The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier-her hat ge - tan.  
 With count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 And free us from all ills, in this world and the next.  
 For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

For much of his life, German Lutheran pastor and musician Martin Rinkart ministered to the walled city of Eisleben amidst the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. This hymn has become one of the most widely used hymns of the church.

Tune: NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.  
 Johann Crüger, 1647  
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

## Service of Release

**A Time for Farewell**

Rebecca Snyder, Moderator

**Remembrance and Recognition**

Simon Biasell, Pastor of Woven Community

**Giving and Sharing**

Rebecca Snyder, Moderator  
Raygan Baker, pastor

**All**    *Your departure offers us a call to our own discernment; for listening to love's demands and the gifts that wisdom reveals. Whether we see this journey through is up to us.*

*We acknowledge, too, the sorrow present.  
We feel the losses, as we remember the gifts we received.  
We grieve over all that might have been.*

*A multiplicity of truths mingle.  
We carry them with us; the sweet and the sharp.*

*God bless our parting.  
God send us with courage.  
God lead us in the ways of liberation.*

**Special Music**

"Little Bird" - Jerry Jeff Walker    Derrol Keith, guitar

### Vows of Release

**Rev. Davena Jones**

Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church Fresno release Rev. Raygan Baker from the duties of Pastor?

**All: We do, with the help of God.**

Do you offer your encouragement for Pastor Raygan's ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

**We do, with the help of God.**

Do you, Rev. Raygan Baker release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

**Pastor Raygan: I do, with the help of God.**

Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve.

**I do, with the help of God.**



**Witness of the Conference Association** Jeannie Hobson, Sequoia Association  
Moderator

**All:** *God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future, which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come, when we are completely one with you and with each other. Amen.*

**Invitation to Thanksgiving Luncheon**

Rebecca Snyder

**Benediction**

Rev. Davena Jones

**\*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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**We Go Out to Love and Serve the World**

# This Week at Big Red

## **Monday November 21**

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## **Tuesday, November 22**

## **Wednesday November 23**

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

## **Thursday November 24**

- ♦ Office is closed for Thanksgiving

## **Friday November 25**

- ♦ Office is closed
- ♦ Deadline for Grapevine submissions
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## **Saturday November 26**

## **Sunday November 27**

- ♦ 10:00am: 1st Sunday of Advent Worship Service - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall



# *A Celebration of Christmas*

*Sunday, December 11th  
3:00 p.m.*

*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



## *Please join us for* *Advent Family* **TIME**

**Big Red Church  
December 4, 2022  
Fellowship Hall  
following worship**

**There will be crafts  
and carols and  
refreshments**



## **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: Kymberly Lindsey

Ushers: Cliff Dodd, Hank Delcore and Joel Bright

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Ministry of Church Life

### **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.