Thanksgiving Sunday

November 20, 2022





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.

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

Prelude

"Violin Sonata No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 12 No. 3" I. Allegro con spirito; III. Rondo: Allegro molto

John Morrice, violin 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

Liturgist: Kymberly Lindsey

Opening Prayer

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.

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.

Gordon Light, ©1994 Common Cup Company OneLicense.net License #A-711732

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.

1973, Hope, Publishing CO., All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-71173

Prayer of the Church

Invitation to Generosity Liturgist: Kymberly Lindsey



Here at the Big Red Church, everyone counts, and every gift counts!

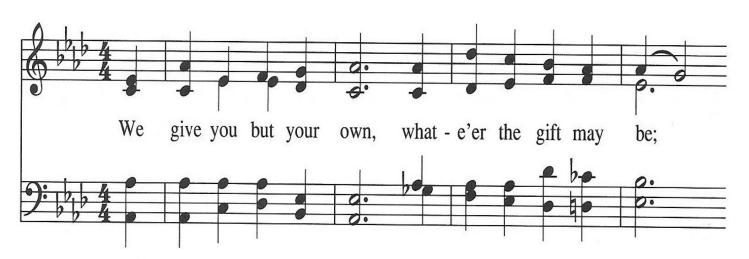
- ⇒ There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).
- ⇒ You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.
- ⇒ BigRedChurch.org/Giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.

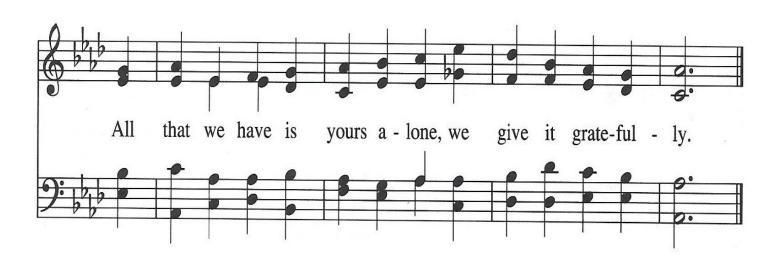
Offertory

"Fairest Lord Jesus" - arr. J. Schrader

Chancel Choir

*Doxology





Exod. 23:16

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt. St. 2, Anna Lactitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt. St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.



SONG OF THANKSGIVING

for congregation

Words by JULIA C. CORY, alt. Arranged by HAL H. HOPSON

16th century Dutch melody

INTRODUCTION

- (Choir) We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; 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.
- (Choir) We worship You, God of our mothers and fathers; through life's storm and tempest our guide You have been. When perils o'ertake 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)









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

The publisher hereby grants permission to reprint page 16 only for the purpose of performance with congregation provided that a sufficient quantity of copies is purchased for the choir.

419

Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)



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
Remembrance and Recognition
Giving and Sharing

Rebecca Snyder, Moderator Simon Biasell, Pastor of Woven Community 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.

1988, Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License # A-711732

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



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



Big Red Church December 4, 2022 Fellowship Hall following worship

There will be crafts and carols and refeshments



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.