

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*  
*January 22, 2023*



*First Congregational Church of Fresno*  
*United Church of Christ*  
*2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.*  
*Fresno, CA 93704*

*Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi*  
*Guest Preaching*

Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 22, 2023

## Our Gathering

**Prelude** "Praeludium in G Minor" - D. Buxtehude Scott Horton, organ  
"Bell Fanfare" - D. B. Brown Handbells

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship** (inspired by Psalm 27:1, 4-9) Parker Chamberlin, Liturgist

Our ever-present God dwells in the sanctuary and in homes, in public spaces and our interior lives.

**ALL: Behold the greatness of the Holy One in the expansiveness of these sacred spaces.**

We seek God's face on Sunday mornings and evenings...and throughout the week.

**ALL: Live in the presence of the Holy One all the days of our lives.**

We call out for God's grace, strength, and guidance.

**ALL: Seek the face of the Holy One. Recognize God's greatness.**

**\*Hymn** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #459 pew hymnal

**Opening Prayer** Parker Chamberlin, Liturgist

Great God, we acknowledge your presence among us and the ways you connect us as a community.

Make us receptive to your voice and instruments of your love in the world. Thrill us with your majesty

And inspire us with your humility. We rejoice in

this gathering as we bless your Holy Name in the assembly, gathered across time and space as your people.

We seek you. We're grateful to find you. Amen.

**Special Music** "Playful Interlude on Jesus Loves Me" Handbells  
arr. D. Wagner

**\*A Time for Discovery** *[children are invited to the chancel steps]*

***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*

## \*Hymn

## "The Summons"

## Scripture Readings

Genesis 32:22-32

Parker Chamberlin, Liturgist

## Sermon

## Wrestling with the Divine

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

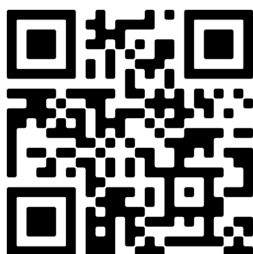
## Sung Call to Prayer

*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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## Invitation to Offering

Parker Chamberlin, Liturgist



*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**

"Come Follow Me" - Kupferschmid

Chancel Choir  
Nancy Mack, flute

**\*Doxology and Dedication**

*We give You but Your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Yours alone,  
We give it gratefully. Amen.*

**\*Closing Hymn**

"Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"

#77, pew hymnal

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

**\*Blessing Hymn**

"Go Now in Peace"

*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 can see  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

1988. Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License # A-711732  
1989.

**\*Postlude**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" - D. Bish

Scott Horton, organ

*It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.*

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# This Week at Big Red

## **Monday January 23**

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## **Tuesday, January 24**

♦

## **Wednesday January 25**

- ♦ 08:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 06:00pm: Handbells Choir rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 07:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

## **Thursday January 26**

♦

## **Friday January 27**

- ♦ 09:00am: BRC Pantry Saturday food distribution prep - Rooms 1 & 2
- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## **Saturday January 28**

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Pantry Food Distribution - Room 1

## **Sunday January 29**

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship with guest preaching by Sofia DeWitt- Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Annual Meeting - Fellowship Hall

**Annual Meeting is January 29, immediately following service**

# **First Congregational Church of Fresno**

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

## **Guest Preacher**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

## **Music Director/Organist**

Scott Horton

## **Caretaker/ Event Coordinator**

Pat Morales

## **Accountant**

Penny Leas Peterson

## **Office Administrator**

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

## **Custodian**

Gregory Chavarria

## **Technicians**

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

## **Assisting in Today's Service**

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Parker Chamberlin

Ushers: Mike Gostanian, Teresa Fuentes, Bruce Owdom

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour:

## **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.

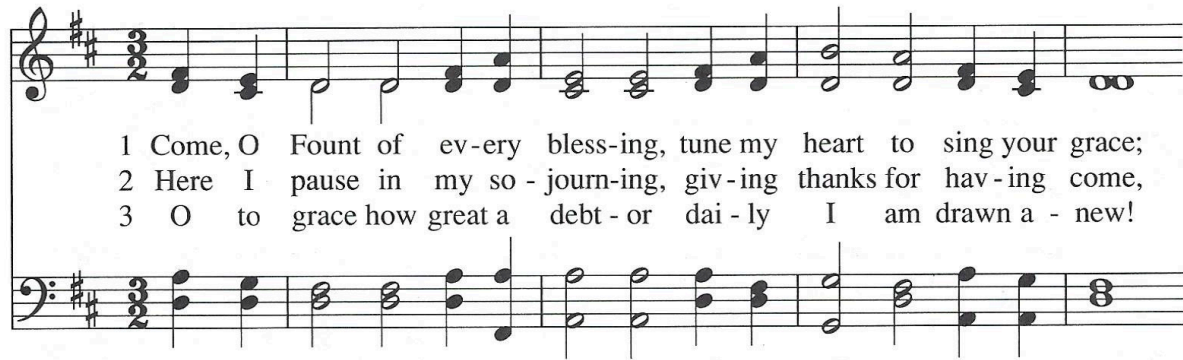
As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

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.

## Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

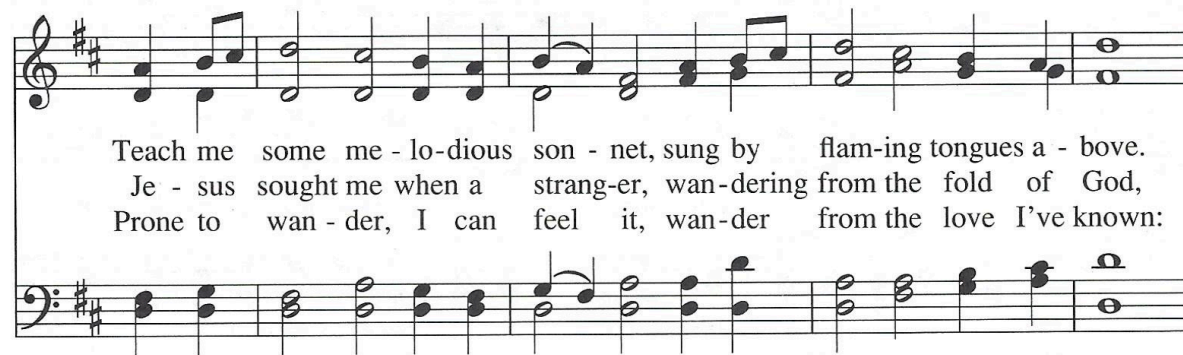
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



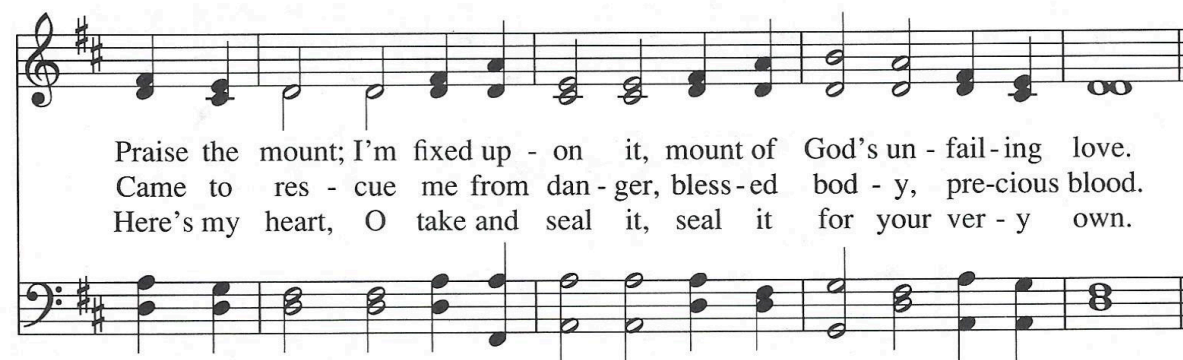
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.  
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.  
Let that grace now, like a - fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,  
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.  
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

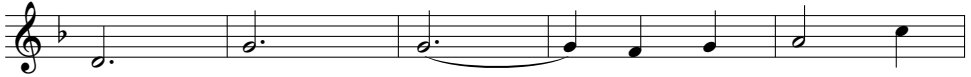
Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.  
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

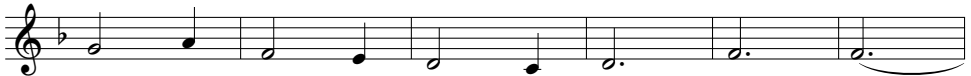
# The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but  
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide If I but  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where  
 call your name? Will you care for  
 call your name? Will you set the  
 call your name? Will you quell the  
 call my name. Let me turn and



you don't know And nev - er be the same?  
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?  
 pris - 'ners free And nev - er be the same?  
 fear in - side And nev - er be the same?  
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, Will you  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do  
 Will you use the faith you've found To re -  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your



let my name be known, Will you let my  
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me  
 such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to  
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and  
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown In you and you in me?  
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?  
 what I mean In you and you in me?  
 touch and sound In you and you in me?  
 live and grow In you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent  
 Tune: KELVINGROVE, 7 6 7 6 777 6; Scottish melody; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent



## Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Luke 2:29; Rom. 1:16

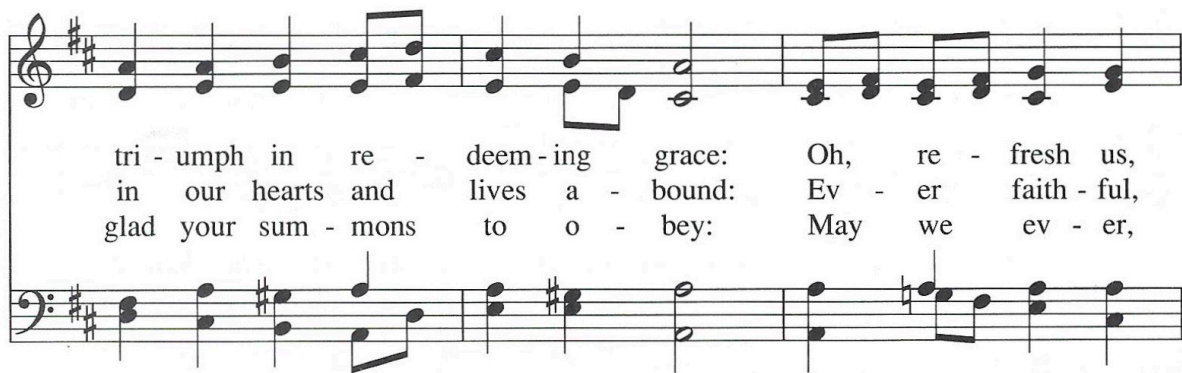
Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.



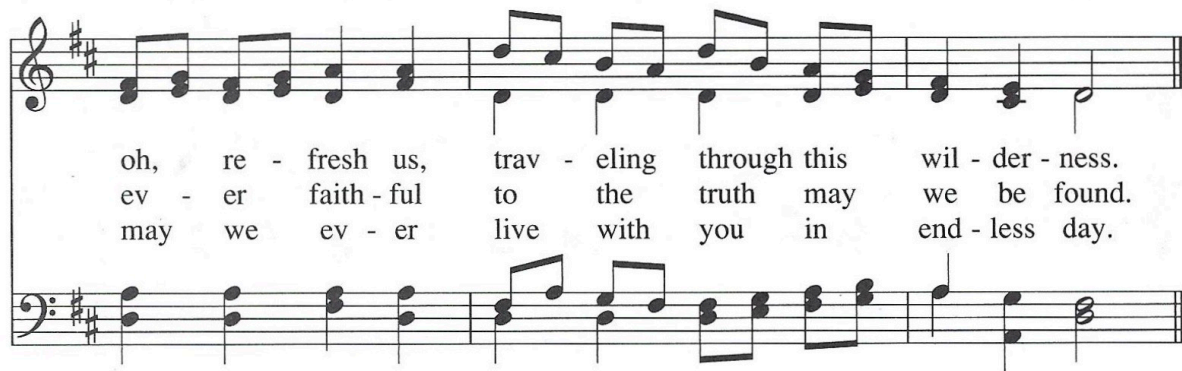
1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's  
 3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the



joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
 world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,  
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,



oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.  
 may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

*Influenced by George Whitefield's preaching, John Fawcett joined the Baptist church, and served as minister in Wainsgate, England, for fifty-four years. Yielding to the persuasion of his parishioners, he declined invitations to move elsewhere. He wrote more than 160 hymns.*

Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
*Sicilian melody, 18th century*  
 The European Magazine and Review, 1792