

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023



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

Rev. Sofia DeWitt
Guest Preaching

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023

Our Gathering

Prelude "Organ Selections of Gordon Young" Scott Horton, organ

Welcome Rev. Sofia DeWitt

***Call to Worship** Mary Stegall, Liturgist

One: Blessed is God, who created us and loves us beyond measure.

All: Blessed is God, who calls us to stop measuring our love.

One: Blessed is God, who speaks and tells us stories about ourselves.

All: Blessed is God, who reveals to us who we are- and who we could be.

One: Blessed is God, whose compassion is poured out on every single person

All: Blessed is God, who gives us compassion to share with every single person, even people we do not know or care about.

***Hymn** "The God of Abraham Praise" #24, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer Mary Stegall, Liturgist

Spirit of Extravagant Welcome,
help us to invite all parts of ourselves into worship today.
Guide us to see no stranger within us or around us
as we care for our world as the Body of Christ.
Help us to break down all barriers to belonging
and the systems sustained by suffering and greed.
For, in discipleship there is abundance through togetherness
and your acceptance of all we feel, carry, and desire.
So, today, and on any given Sunday,
use all that we come here with
to build a sanctuary for you. Amen.

Choral Anthem "He Is the Rock" – M. Barrett Chancel Choir

***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

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

#498, pew hymnal

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 30:11-16; 19-20
Luke 10:25-37

Mary Stegall, Liturgist

Sermon

"Just Do It!"

Rev. Sofia DeWitt

Invitation to Prayer

Sung Call to Prayer

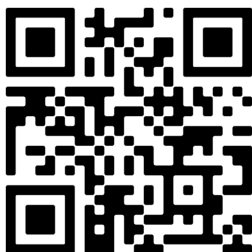
*Lord, listen to your children praying;
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying:
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

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Prayers of The Church

Invitation to Offering

Mary Stegall, 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

"Offertory" - J.N. Beck

Chancel Choir

***Doxology**

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

Dedication

***Closing Hymn**

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

#425, 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.***

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Postlude

"Toccata" - G. Young

Scott Horton, organ

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It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

This Week at Big Red

Monday January 30

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, January 31

♦

Wednesday February 1

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

Thursday February 2

♦

Friday February 3

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday February 4

♦

Sunday February 5

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship with guest preaching by Kenny Schoelen- Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall—Culinary stylings by Jacqui Shore

Annual Meeting today immediately following service

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Guest Preacher

Rev. Sofia DeWitt

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: Mary Stegall

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Sue Karibian, Bob McParland

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Church Life

Acolytes: Coming soon

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.