

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 12, 2023



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

Kimberly Williams
Guest Preaching

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 12, 2023

Our Gathering

Prelude

Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

Kimberly Williams
Member-in-Discernment
Wayne Brown, Liturgist

***Call to Worship** (inspired by Sirach 15:15-20)

Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.
God gives us the choice to follow and to be faithful.
Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.
God offers fire to warm us and water to quench our thirst.
Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.
God considers us with care and knows our ways.

***Hymn**

“Sing Praise to God”

#22, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer

Wayne Brown, Liturgist

Righteous God. in you we find life and liberty, compassion and care,
redemption and reconciliation. You make your ways known to us,
and you recognize your people as we are—fully human
and made in your image. You come to us, and we come to you.
Let us meet in this time and place. Let us bring our hope and our fears,
our joys and our sorrows, our successes and our disappointments—
the fullness of this glorious and maddening life toward
you assured that you meet us here. Amen.

Choral Anthem

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
arr. David Cherwien

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.***

Sing! Praise and Worship, 2012. All rights reserved.
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***Hymn** "Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way" #465, pew hymnal

Scripture Readings Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Wayne Brown, Liturgist
Matthew 5:21-37

Message Kimberly Williams

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 Wayne Brown, 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 "Down to the Water to Pray" Chancel Choir
arr. Pepper Choplin Faye Saxton, soloist

***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

***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**

"Now in the Days of Youth"

#350, pew hymnal

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" - E. Eicker

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.



*Galloway Memorial Organ
Evensong*

Scott Horton

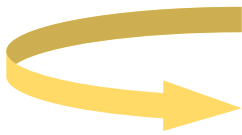
organist

Sunday, March 5, 2023

3:00 p.m.

Admission Free - Freewill Offering to Benefit
the Casavant Organ Fund

*First Congregational Church of Fresno
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.
(559) 227-8489*



News from the pews....

BRC FOOD PANTRY SUGGESTION LIST...

- **Shelf stable:** milk, non-dairy oak milk, hemp milk, almond milk, soy milk
- **Dairy:** cheese, evaporated milk
- **Spreadable:** peanut butter, jelly, margarine
- **Snack packs:** Jell-O, pudding, fruit, chips, granola bars, cookies, pea-nut butter crackers, pretzel sticks, tuna/chicken salad
- **Meats:** Lunch meat, Spam, tuna, canned chicken, salmon,
- **Household products:** Laundry soap, dish soap, sanitizer wipes, paper towels
- **Toiletries:** shampoo, deodorant, conditioner, lotion, bath soap, toothbrushes, tooth-paste, disposable razors, feminine products
- **Canned goods:** beans, fruit, ravioli, spaghetti, chili baked beans, refried beans, soup
- **Pasta:** ramen, spaghetti, macaroni, rigatoni, penne, ziti, gluten free
- **Canned veggies:** corn, potatoes, green beans, beets, spinach, peas, tomatoes
- **Cereal:** boxed, oatmeal, instant oatmeal
- **Breads:** Corn tortillas, flour tortillas, sandwich bread, bagels
- **Instant mixes:** mashed potatoes, pancake mix, mac-n-cheese, rice-o-roni,
- **Beverages:** Juice boxes, coffee packs (6 pack), hot cocoa, bottled water, tea bags
- **Condiments:** ketchup, mustard, mayo, salt, pepper, bbq sauce, hot sauce, salsa
- **Socks:** men's and women's for the "Sock Box" (gently used is fine)

These are the best places to get more bang for your buck: Aldi's, Dollar Tree, Walmart, WinCo, Dollar General, 99 Cent Store

There is no right thing or wrong thing for the BRC Pantry. There is no shame in needing; There is just need. Please drop off an item or come by and see what the fuss is all about. Do you know someone in need, send them.

Thank you Kenny Schoelen and the Sunday school kids for helping to fill the shelves this week

This Week at Big Red

Monday February 13

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, February 14

♦

Wednesday February 15

- ♦ 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 16

♦

Friday February 17

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday February 18

♦

Sunday February 19

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Ellie Anne Dote, Guest Preaching - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

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Guest Preacher

Kimberly Williams

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: Wayne Brown

Ushers: Harold Householder, Lester Leas, Richard van Wyhe

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Pat Morales, Paula Roberts, Georgette Carillo

Acolytes: McKenna Marrufo, Bailey Hill

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.

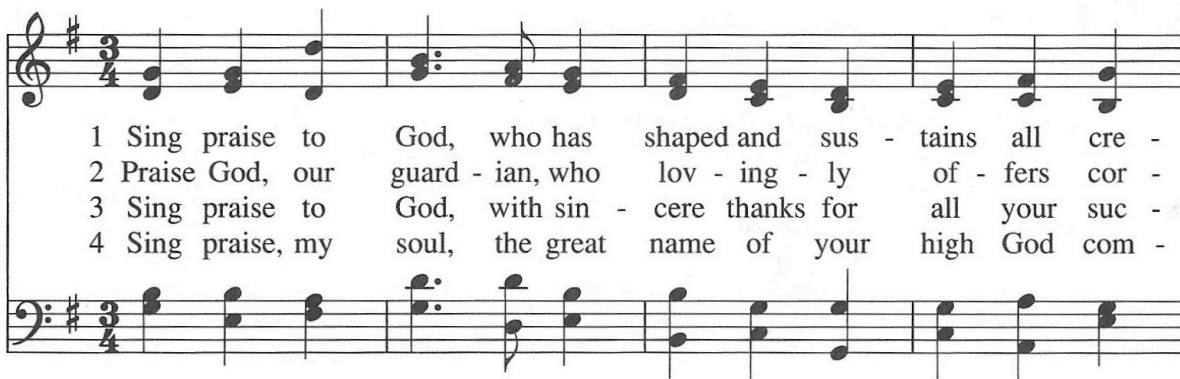
We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

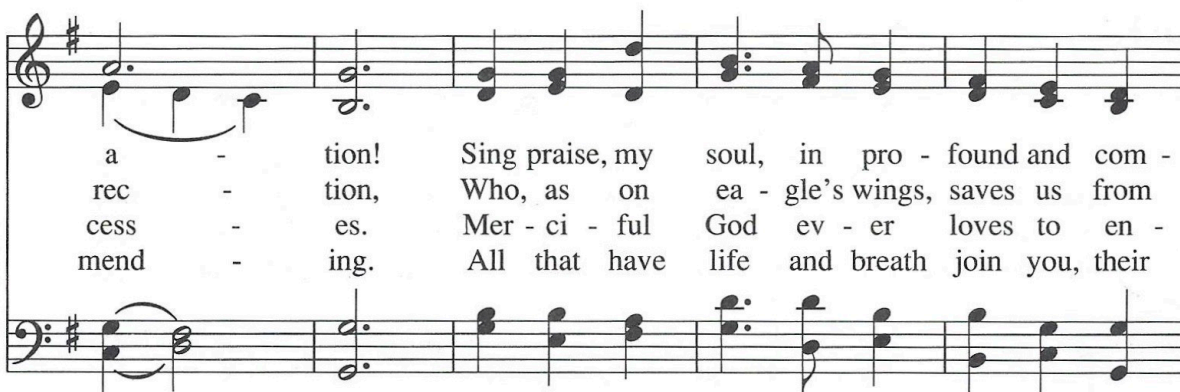
Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680

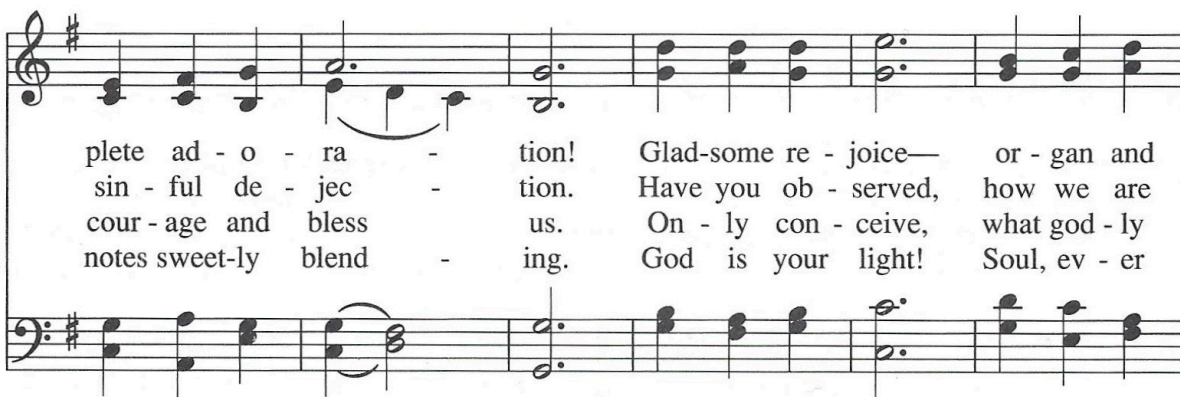
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



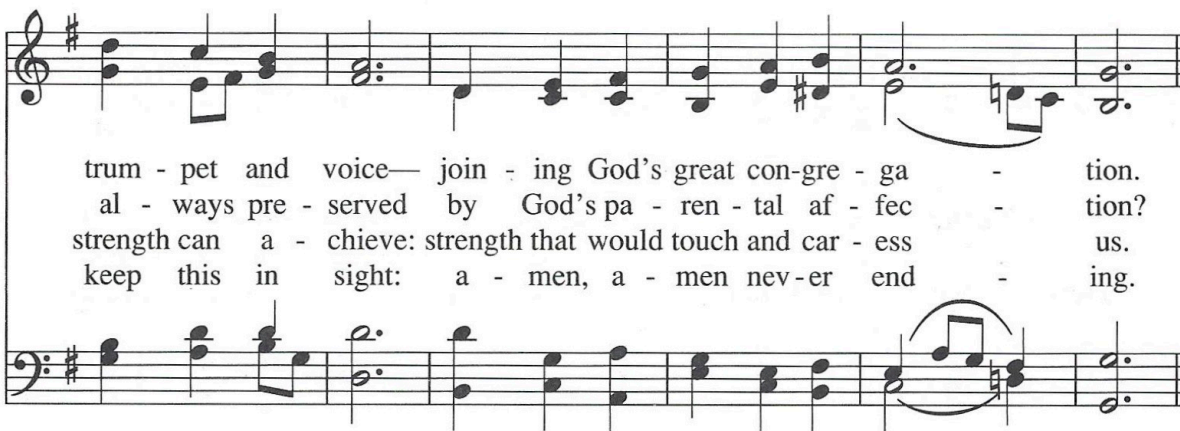
1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -



a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their



plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - joice — or - gan and
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er



trum - pet and voice — join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Düsseldorf, Germany. This was the most familiar of his fifty-six hymn texts, which were published along with many of his original tunes in 1680, the year of his death.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
 Erneuerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665
 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way

William Matson, 1866; alt.

1 Teach me, O Lord, your ho - ly way,
 2 Help me, O Sav - ior, here to trace
 3 Guard me, O Christ, that I may ne'er
 4 Bless me in ev - ery task I face,

and give me an o - be - dient mind,
 the sa - cred foot - steps you have trod;
 for - sake the right, or do the wrong;
 be - gun, con - tin - ued, done for you;

That in your ser - vice I may find
 and ful - ly trust - ing in my God,
 A - gainst temp - ta - tion make me strong,
 Ful - fill your will in all I do,

my heart's de - light from day to day.
 to grow in good - ness, truth, and grace.
 and keep me in your shel - tering care.
 and grant me your a - bun - dant grace.

William Matson, English poet and Congregational minister, wrote a poem of 321 four-line stanzas titled "The Inner Life" (1866). This hymn of obedience to Christ has been drawn from that extended poem.

Tune: ROCKINGHAM L.M.
 Anon.
 Adapt. Edward Miller, 1790

Now in the Days of Youth

350

Walter J. Mathams, 1913; alt.
Adapt. Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1992

Eccles. 12:1; 1 Cor. 16:13; Deut. 30:19-20

1 Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when
 2 Teach us to use our lives with pur - pose and with power for
 3 Teach us to love in truth, to give and to re - ceive with
 4 Teach-er, Cre - a - tor, God, en - fold us in your arms; be

hope and doubt touch ev - ery hour, when all thoughts find a voice,
 vi - sions of a bet - ter world and for de - ci - sion's hour;
 joy - ful and with o - pen hearts, with all that we be - lieve;
 with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.

We turn, O God, to you for guid-ance and for grace. In
 To choose the way of life, re - ject the way of death, un -
 To seek an - oth - er's good, to hon - or what is right, to
 All good and per - fect gifts come to us from your hand. O

all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.
 til the ra - dant force of God fills mind and strength and breath.
 let our will and our de - sire be held in ho - ly light.
 help us use them care - ful - ly and live by love's com - mand.

When the Rev. Walter J. Mathams of London wrote this hymn for use at Christian Endeavor and Sunday School conventions, he did not realize it would receive wide circulation. It was introduced in the United States in 1913 in Worship and Song.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
George J. Elvey, 1868