

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

Madeleine Guekquezian Guest Preaching

#### **First Sunday of Lent**

#### February 26, 2023

## **Our Gathering**

Prelude

Welcome

"Durch Adams Fall" - J.S. Bach Ich ruf zu dir" - J.S. Bach

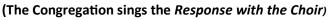
"Old Time 'Hallelujah' Religion" - arr. T. Waldrop

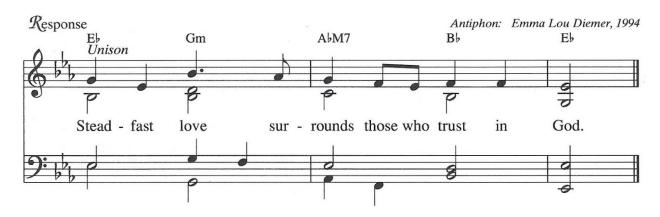
Scott Horton, organ

Handbells Madeleine Guekguezian Guest Preaching

#### **Centering Psalm 32**

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent, cantor





Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

#### Sung Response: "Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God."

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

#### Sung Response: "Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God."

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

### Sung Response: "Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God."

| *Call to Worship<br>God of the Sahara and the Amazon, Maker of dry places and   |  | Parker Chamberlin, liturgist wetlands. |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| We come before you with parched hearts for living in this world has made them so.   |  |  |  |  |
| Holy One, yo  | ur ability to renew us is unmatched.   |  |  |  |
| You renew us  | s from within and without.   |  |  |  |
| Ancient of Da   | ays, you held us in the beginning, and you are he  | olding us now.                         |  |  |
| We reach out to you and draw as close as we can.  |  |  |  |  |
| *Hymn   | "Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days"   | #211, pew hymnal                       |  |  |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>   |  | Parker Chamberlin, liturgist           |  |  |
| Divine One, we are thankful for the restoration that can be found in you. Your pres-<br>ence is welcomed here. We delight in knowing that you want to be wherever we are.<br>Because you are love, you show up for us. In this space, may we delight in your assur-<br>ance that all you made is good. Amen |  |  |  |  |
| Special Music   | "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" - arr.   | Eithun Handbells                       |  |  |
| Time for Discovery [children are invited to the chancel steps]Madeleine Guekguezian   |  |  |  |  |
| Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still;<br>let this be our song — no one stands alone,<br>standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.<br>Gordon Light, ©1994 Common Cup Company<br>OneLicense.net License #A-711732   |  |  |  |  |
| *Hymn"  | Behold This Broken World" vv. 1–4 & 6 <mark>(</mark>   | CH) Insert                             |  |  |
| Scripture   | Gen 2:15–17, 3:1–7   | Parker Chamberlin, liturgist           |  |  |
| Sermon  | "Reimagining Penitence"  | Madeleine Guekguezian                  |  |  |
| Invitation to Prayer  |  |  |  |  |
| Sung Call to Prayer   |  |  |  |  |
| Lord, listen to your children praying;<br>Lord, send your Spirit in this place.<br>Lord, listen to your children praying:   |  |  |  |  |
| 5   | Send us love, send us power, send us grace.<br>Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved.<br>OneLicense.net License # A-711732 |  |  |  |
| Prayers of The Chu  | rch  |  |  |  |
| Invitation to Offeri  | ng   | Parker Chamberlin, liturgist           |  |  |



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

- There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for  $\Rightarrow$ your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).
- $\Rightarrow$  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  $\Rightarrow$ information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.

#### Offertory

"African Psalm" - arr. V. Johnson

**Chancel Choir** 

#### \*Doxology

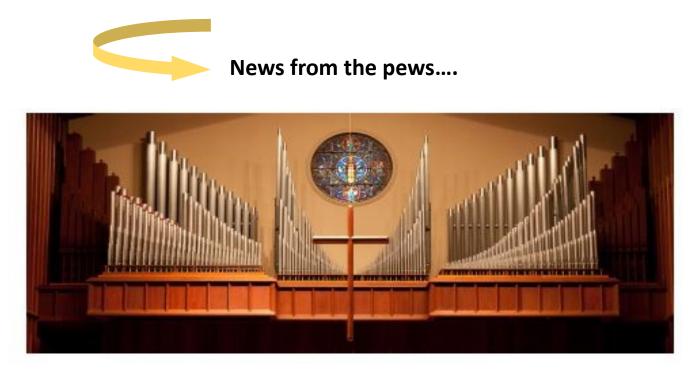
We give You but Your own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Yours alone, We give it gratefully. Amen.

#### Dedication

| *Closing Hymn  | "You Are My Hiding Place"   | Insert                    |
|--|---|---------------------------|
|  | & Committal for Recently Departed<br>hael Karibian, Dale Buchanan   | Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent |
| Benediction  |   | Madeleine Guekguezian     |
| *Blessing Hymn   | "Go Now in Peace"   |                           |
| God will go w<br>Go now in fai<br>God will guid<br>Go now in low<br>reach out to d<br>God will be th | Prace, never be afraid;<br>with you each hour of ev'ry day.<br>ith- steadfast, strong, and true; know<br>le you in all you do.<br>we and show you believe;<br>others so all the world can see<br>here, watching from above.<br>Prace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen<br>1988.Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License |                           |
| Postlude   | "Ukrainian National Anthem"   | Scott Horton, organ       |

Verbytsky; arr. Janzer

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

## **\*ANNOUNCEMENT**

## Flash Mob Hallelujah Chorus on Easter

Have you ever wanted to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah?

We will be singing this masterpiece as the postlude on Easter Sunday! On Easter, all you will have to do is make your way up to the Chancel area, up with the choir during the singing of "Go Now in Peace," and we'll be all set to sing our collective "Hallelujah" to the Risen Lord! We will be having a single run-through practice every Sunday following worship until Easter. Music and practice CDs will be provided. \*Warning - smiles and feelings of joy are side effects. Please see/contact Scott Horton to get involved or if you have any questions.



## This Week at Big Red

## Monday February 27

• 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Tuesday, February 28

## Wednesday March 1

- 08:00am: Bible Study Zoom
- 05:00pm: Yoga Room 1
- 05:15pm: Soup Supper Fellowship Hall
- 06:00pm: Lenten Book Study Parlor
- 07:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal Sanctuary

## Thursday March 2

## Friday March 3

• 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Saturday March 4

10:00am: BRC Food Pantry Distribution

## Sunday March 5

- O9:00am: Roots and Branches Fireside Room
- 10:00am: Worship Service Rev. Ray Parmer, AGM, Guest Preaching Sanctuary
- 11:00am: Coffee Hour Fellowship Hall

## **First Congregational Church of Fresno**

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

Guest Preacher Madeleine Guekquezian

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 and Bruce Owdom

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Jacquie Shore w/ Pat Morales

Acolytes: Faith C and Olivia A

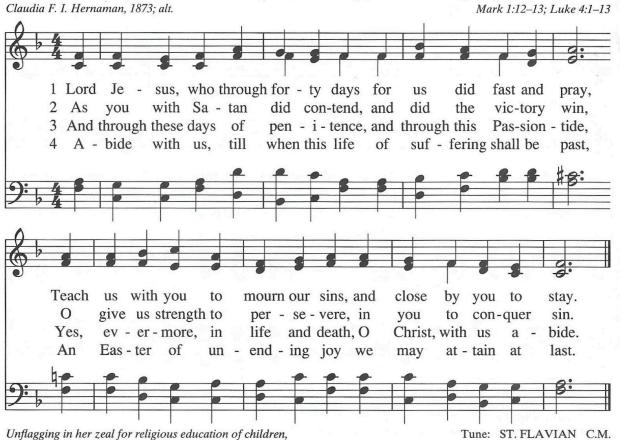
Altar Flowers: Gayle Thornton in memory of Dale Buchanan

#### **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. Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days



Unflagging in her zeal for religious education of children, Claudia F. I. Hernaman wrote some 150 hymns. This one appeared in her Child's Book of Praise (1873).

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M. Day's The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Psalm 32:7



