

First Sunday of Lent
February 26, 2023



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

Madeleine Guekquezian
Guest Preaching

Our Gathering

Prelude

““Durch Adams Fall” - J.S. Bach

Scott Horton, organ

“Ich ruf zu dir” - J.S. Bach

“Old Time ‘Hallelujah’ Religion” - arr. T. Waldrop

Handbells

Welcome

Madeleine Guekguezian

Guest Preaching

Centering Psalm 32

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent, cantor

(The Congregation sings the *Response with the Choir*)

Response *Antiphon: Emma Lou Diemer, 1994*

E \flat Unison Gm A \flat M7 B \flat E \flat

Stead - fast love sur - rounds those who trust in God.

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**

Parker Chamberlin, liturgist

God of the Sahara and the Amazon, Maker of dry places and wetlands.

We come before you with parched hearts for living in this world has made them so.

Holy One, your ability to renew us is unmatched.

You renew us from within and without.

Ancient of Days, you held us in the beginning, and you are holding us now.

We reach out to you and draw as close as we can.

***Hymn**

“Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days”

#211, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer

Parker Chamberlin, liturgist

Divine One, we are thankful for the restoration that can be found in you. Your presence is welcomed here. We delight in knowing that you want to be wherever we are. Because you are love, you show up for us. In this space, may we delight in your assurance 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;
let this be our song — no one stands alone,
standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.**

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***Hymn“**

Behold This Broken World” vv. 1–4 & 6 (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;
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

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

"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

Prayer of Blessing & Committal for Recently Departed

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

Winston Fields, Michael Karibian, Dale Buchanan

Benediction

Madeleine Guekguezian

***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

**"Ukrainian National Anthem"
Verbytsky; arr. Janzer**

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.



News from the pews....



*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

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Rev. Ray Parmer, AGM, Guest Preaching Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

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Guest Preacher

Madeleine Guekguezian

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

211

Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,
4 A - bid with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bid.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

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

554

You Are My Hiding Place

Unison

You are my hid - ing place, you al - ways fill my heart with

songs of de - liv - er - ance. When - ev - er I am a - fraid, I will trust in

Fine (last time)

you. I will trust in you; let the weak say,

D.C.

"I am strong in the strength of my God."

Behold a Broken World

Unison

1. Be - hold a bro - ken world, we pray, where
 2. A dream of swords to sick - les bent, of
 3. Where ev - every bat - tle flag is furled and
 4. No force of arms shall there pre - vail nor
 5. O Prince of Peace, who died to save, a
 6. Bring, Lord, your bet - ter world to birth, your

want and war in - crease, and grant us, Lord, in
 spears to scythe and spade, the weap - ons of our
 ev - every trum - pet stilled, where wars shall cease in
 jus - tice cease its sway; nor shall their loft - iest
 lost world to re - deem, and rose in tri - umph
 king - dom, love's do - main, where peace with God, and

this our day, the an - cient dream of peace:
 war - fare spent, a world of peace re - made;
 all the world, a wak - ing dream ful - filled.
 vi - sions fail the dream - ers of the day.
 from the grave, be - hold our wak - ing dream.
 peace on earth, and peace e - ter - nal reign.

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1985 (Is. 2:1-4; Mic. 4:1-4)
 MUSIC: Max Miller, 1984

MARSH CHAPEL
 CM