

Easter Sunday
April 9, 2023

HE IS NOT HERE

HE IS RISEN

HE IS RISEN



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

Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields
Guest Minister

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Creator, 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 Day of Resurrection"

#245, pew hymnal

*Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

Lily & Catherine Cooper liturgists

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you."

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."

Responding to the Good News



A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, E.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.



A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

Sermon "The Indescribable" Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

Invitation to Prayer Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

Sung Call to Prayer

Lord, listen to your children praying:

Lord send your Spirit in this place.

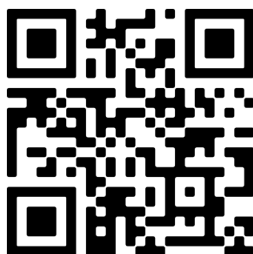
Lord, listen to your children praying:

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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Prayers of the Church

Invitation to Generosity



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

“Gaelic Alleluia” - arr. C. Courtney

Chancel Choir
Gina Fazio and
Jane Davis-Maldonado, piano

***Doxology (Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Dedication

Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

***Closing Hymn**

“Your is the Glory”

#253, pew hymnal

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

Like the disciples on the day of Resurrection
May we go toward the tomb

A place seemingly devoid of life
May we find life in all its glory

And spread the news
That life prevails
That life redeems
And that love never fails.

God in peace, with resurrection purpose to love God,
God’s children, and God’s creation. Amen.

***Blessing Song**

“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 will 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

“Hallelujah, from *The Messiah*” - G.F. Handel

Easter Celebration Singers

It is our tradition to be seated during the Postlude.

This Week at Big Red

Monday April 10

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, April 11

- ♦ 06:00pm: Meeting of the Ministries - Minturn Chapel

Wednesday April 12

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

Thursday April 13

Friday April 14

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday April 15

Sunday April 16

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Paul Martzen, Guest Speaking
Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Congregational Meeting
- ♦ 11:15am: Enchilada pick up day
- ♦ 11:15am: Coffee Hour

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Guest in the Pulpit

Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

Technicians

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Lily and Catherine Cooper

Ushers: Bruce Owdom and Bob McParland

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Church Life

Acolytes: Makenna and Selena

Altar Flowers: Easter Flowers

Chancel Design: Jacquie Shore

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.