

Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023



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

Paul Martzen
Guest Speaker

Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023



Our Gathering

(*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/**Congregation/all**)

Prelude

Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

Paul Martzen, Guest Speaker

***Call to Worship**

Parker Chamberlin, liturgist

Thomas said, *“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”*

We are in a liminal space, confused between brokenness and new opportunities.

Dear God, fill us with the power of Resurrection to embrace newness.

We are hiding like the disciples behind closed doors with fear and doubts, waiting for your appearance.

Come into our midst now, penetrate into our closed hearts bringing your peace.

Refresh us, O God, and empower us.

As we worship today, blow into us your gentle spirit.

***Hymn**

“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”

#244, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer

Parker Chamberlin, liturgist

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

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 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

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

#292, pew hymnal

Scripture

John 20:19-31

Parker Chamberlin, liturgist

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

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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Intercessory Prayers of the Church

Paul Martzen

One: Why is it, Lord, that we doubt your power when we see unexpected deaths?
Why is it we doubt our abilities when uncertainty strikes us? Why is it, Lord I
ask many questions to which I find no answers? God of Resurrection,

Many: Receive our Prayers and Help us, to befriend our fear and doubts.

One: We pray for those who live in perpetual fear due to the experience of tragic
incidents in their lives. We remember those who live with depression,
feeling alone and walking through the darkest valley. Help us to believe
the resurrected Lord is with us, traveling through these difficult periods and
helping us to process all our fears and doubts. God of Resurrection,

Many: Receive our Prayers and Help us, to befriend our fears and doubts.

One: We pray for those who are afraid to open their doors due to the fear of
war, living as undocumented refugees, those unable to pay their bills, fear
of embarrassment, and many who feel insecure due to threats and
violence surrounding them. Open our eyes to see the presence of the
resurrected Christ in the midst of this chaos, sharing our pain. God of
Resurrection,

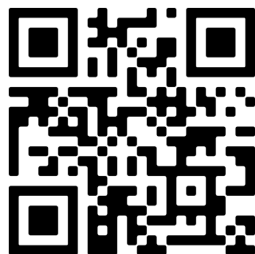
Many: Receive our Prayers and Help us, to befriend our fears and doubts.

One: We pray for those who are alienated and insulted because of their physical
and emotional disabilities, gender and sexual orientation, economic status,
race, and made to believe that they are inferior to others. Help us to see
that the resurrected Christ is a disabled Christ with wounds in his hand and
body giving us the courage to embrace our bodies and beings and
celebrate it. God of Resurrection,

Many: Receive our Prayers and Help us to befriend our fears and doubts.

One: We remember all those loved ones who have died and rested in peace in
your presence. We celebrate everything that they have taught us about life:
to face challenges boldly, learn from failures, be ardent in faith, question
the unknown, accept the mysteries, love the present, and in creating paths
for us and future generations. God of Resurrection,

**Many: Resurrect in us the hope of life as Jesus did for his disciples and the many who lived
in this world taught us. So that we continue to proclaim your peace
and new life. Amen.**



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

“Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630” - J.S. Bach Scott Horton, organ

***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

***Closing Hymn**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

1. Interim Search Update
2. Sound System Proposal

Jeanne Hobson, moderator
 Catherine English, MoW
 Wade Hobson, MoR; Rebecca Snyder, CFO

Benediction

Paul Martzen

***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.**

This Week at Big Red

Monday April 17

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, April 18

- ♦ 06:00pm: Church Council meeting - Parlor

Wednesday April 19

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

Thursday April 20

Friday April 21

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday April 22

Sunday April 23

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Kymberly Lindsey, Guest Speaking
Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour

IMPORTANT STUFF...

- Council Meeting is this Tuesday @ 6pm in the Parlor
- Please pick up your enchiladas in the Fellowship Hall TODAY!
- Kim Williams will be conducting Pastoral care through April.

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Guest in the Pulpit

Paul Martzen

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: Parker Chamberlin

Ushers: Cliff Dodd, Mike Gostanian, Teresa Fuentes

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour:

Acolytes: Olivia and Faith

Altar Flowers:

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.

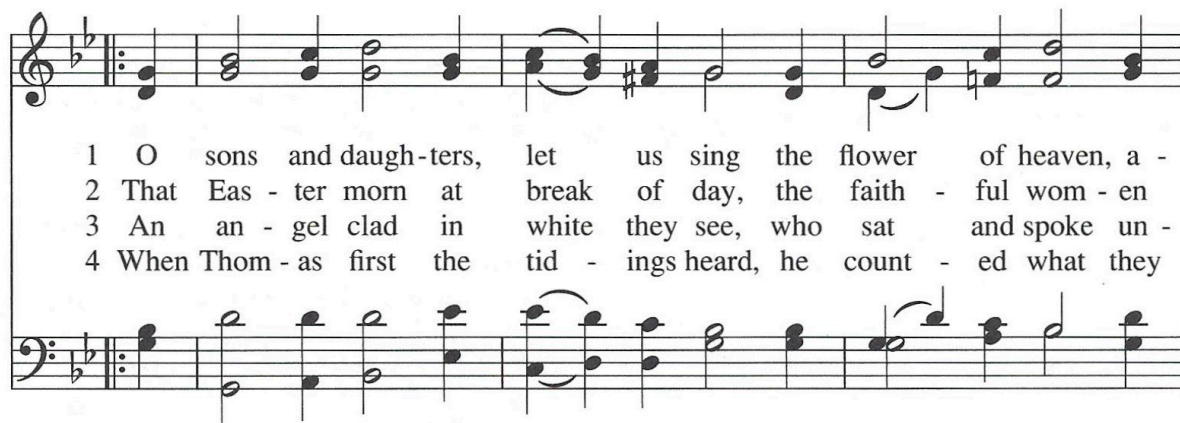
Mark 16:1-7; John 20:19-29

Attrib. to Jean Tisserand (d. 1494)

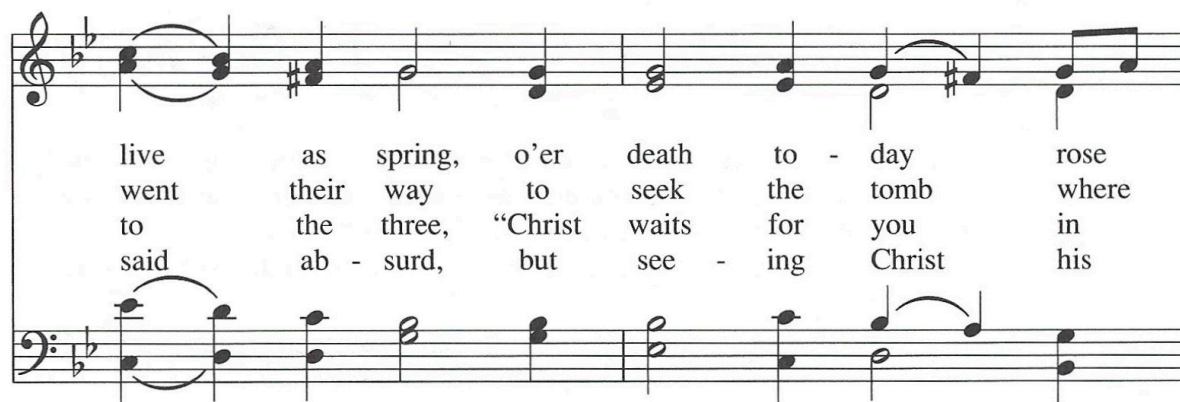
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

Antiphon (may be sung at beginning and end)

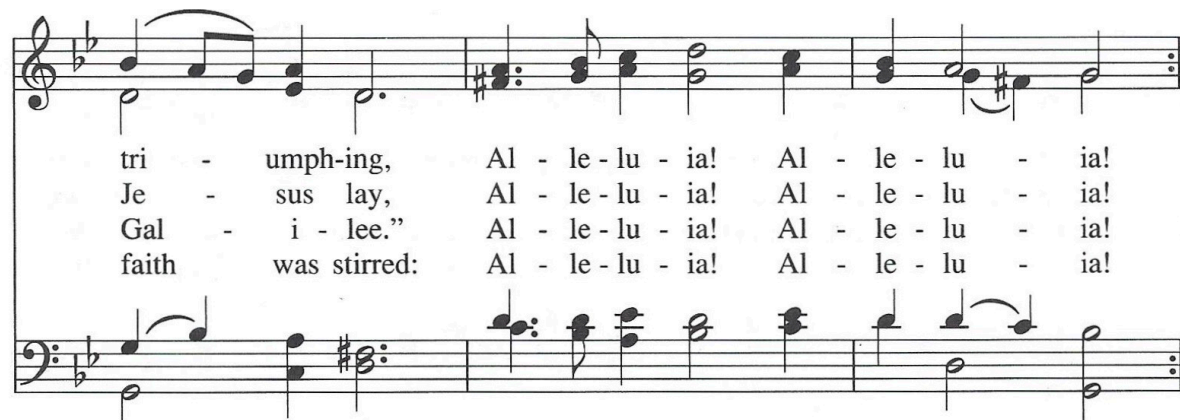

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



1 O sons and daugh-ters, let us sing the flower of heaven, a -
 2 That Eas - ter morn at break of day, the faith - ful wom - en
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see, who sat and spoke un -
 4 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard, he count - ed what they



live as spring, o'er death to - day rose
 went their way to seek the tomb where
 to the three, "Christ waits for you in
 said ab - surd, but see - ing Christ his



tri - umph-ing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Je - sus lay, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 faith was stirred: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

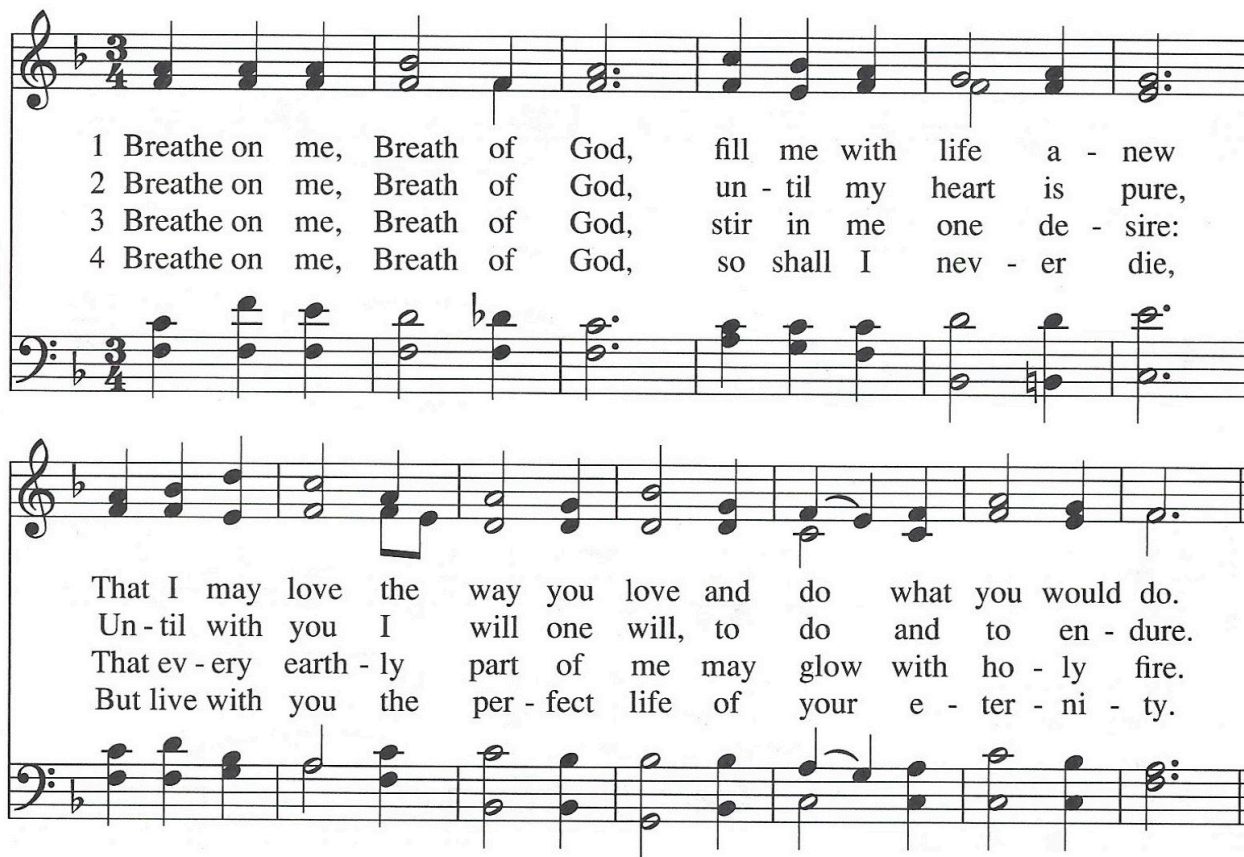
5 How blessed are they who have not seen
 and yet whose faith has con-stant been;
 for they e-ter-nal life shall win,
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

6 On this most ho-ly day of days,
 our hearts and voic-es, Christ, we raise
 to you in ju-bi-lee and praise.
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! (*Antiphon*)

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

292

Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
 Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
 But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

Between parish assignments in London, Edwin Hatch taught classics at Trinity College, Quebec, and lectured at Oxford. This hymn appeared in a leaflet, "Between Doubt and Prayer" (1878). Other hymns were published posthumously in Towards Fields of Light, London (1890).

Tune: TRENTHAM S.M.
 Robert Jackson, 1894

581

Lead Us from Death to Life

2 John 1:3; Isa. 2:2-4

Refrain, Satish Kumar
Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1985

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

Last time, end

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man - y lone-ly hearts, so man - y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus - tice ev - er roll, let mer - cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

The text for the refrain of this hymn is known as the "World Peace Prayer." It is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism. Since its introduction at a service in Westminster Abbey on Hiroshima Day, 1981, the prayer has been translated into numerous languages and circulated around the world. The musical setting and additional stanzas were composed by Marty Haugen, composer-in-residence at Mayflower United Church of Christ, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER
 12.11.9.10. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1985