

*Third Sunday of Easter*  
*April 23, 2023*



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

*Kymerly Lindsey*  
*Guest Speaker*

# Third Sunday of Easter

## April 23, 2023



# Our Gathering

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

**Prelude**                      Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major - J.S. Bach                      Scott Horton, organ  
*"Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, der den Tod überwand"* - J.S. Bach  
 (Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who conquered death)

**Welcome** Kymberly Lindsey, Guest Speaker

**\*Call to Worship** (based on Luke 24:13-35) Kenny Schoelen, liturgist

Leader: Jesus is with you while you walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus,

**People: We journey with Jesus on the road.**

Leader: And yet we could not recognize Jesus

**People: until we broke bread together,**

Leader: At once, our eyes are opened and we say:

**People: Oh! Our hearts were burning for that familiar voice!**

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen, indeed!**

Leader: Praise God!

**All: Alleluia!**

\*Hymn "The Strife Is O'er" #242, pew hymnal

**Prayer of Confession** Kenny Schoelen, liturgist

**Merciful God, look at our hearts. The words of prophets and apostles cut us to the heart, for we too have crucified Jesus. Even when Christ shows up as a stranger in our walk, like the apostles, we too sigh and say, “Don’t you know anything?” Then, we often wish they would go back to where they came from as we “explain” to them the way things work or what everyone from around here already knows. Yet, our hearts burn even while Jesus walks with us and we are blind to Christ’s presence. Your prophets have shown us our guilt, ignorance, and arrogance and we look at one another and ask, “What should we do?” Can you forgive us, God?**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

**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.**

## 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.*

### Anthem

"How Beautiful" - T. Paris; arr. L. Larson

Chancel Choir

### Scripture

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

Kenny Schoelen, liturgist

2 Timothy 4:1-8

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the LORD, "LORD, save me!"

What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants. Truly I am your servant, LORD; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains. I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD — in your midst, Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

I'm giving you this commission in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is coming to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearance and his kingdom. Preach the word. Be ready to do it whether it is convenient or inconvenient. Correct, confront, and encourage with patience and instruction. There will come a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. They will collect teachers who say what they want to hear because they are self-centered. They will turn their back on the truth and turn to myths. But you must keep control of yourself in all circumstances. Endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the good news, and carry out your service fully.

I'm already being poured out like a sacrifice to God, and the time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. At last the champion's wreath that is awarded for righteousness is waiting for me. The Lord, who is the righteous judge, is going to give it to me on that day. He's giving it not only to me but also to all those who have set their heart on waiting for his appearance.

## Message

"What is Your Dash Telling God? "

Kymberly Lindsey

## Invitation to Prayer

Kymberly Lindsey

## 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.**

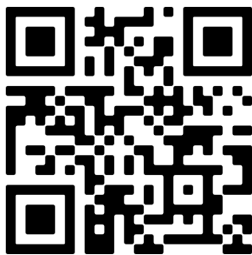
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## Prayers of the Church

Kymberly Lindsey

## Invitation to Generosity

Kenny Schoelen, 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

"The Lamb" - G. Coleman

Chancel Choir

## \*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

Announcement

"The Dash"

Kymberly Lindsey

\*Closing Hymn

"Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us"

Insert (CH #231)

Benediction

Kymberly Lindsey

\*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

"Hymn to Joy" - arr. J. Cotter

Scott Horton, piano

*It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.*

**Come help prep on Friday April 28  
10am in the Fellowship Hall**



# **This Week at Big Red**

## **Monday April 24**

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## **Tuesday, April 25**

## **Wednesday April 26**

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

## **Thursday April 27**

## **Friday April 28**

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Pantry Food prep - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## **Saturday April 29**

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Free Food Distribution - Fellowship Hall

## **Sunday April 30**

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Madeleine Guekguezian, Guest Preaching  
Sanctuary

### **IMPORTANT STUFF...**

- Do you have an interesting article for the Grapevine? Monday is the deadline for submission.
- Kim Williams will be conducting Pastoral care through April.
- Pick up your enchiladas, see Paula Roberts or Pat Morales

# **First Congregational Church of Fresno**

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

## **Guest in the Pulpit**

Kymberly Lindsey

## **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: Kenny Schoelen

Ushers: Harold Householder, Lester Leas and  
Richard VanWyhe

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Pat Morales and Jacqui Shore

Acolytes: Avery and Addison

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.



1 Cor. 15:53-57

Latin, c. 1695

Transl. Francis Pott, 1861; alt.

Refrain (before st. 1 and after st. 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es  
 4 Christ, by your wounds on Cal - va - ry from death's dread

ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph  
 le - gions has dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly  
 glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry to our  
 sting your ser - vants free, That we may live e -

has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! to Refrain

A seventeenth-century Jesuit collection published in Cologne, Germany, is the earliest known source of this Latin hymn. The hymn is firmly associated with this musical setting from a Magnificat by the Italian composer Palestrina.

Tune: VICTORY 8.8.8. with alleluias  
 Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina, 1591  
 Arr. William H. Monk, 1861



# Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou  
2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou  
3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth

hast for me; place in my hands the won - der - ful key  
send - est clear; and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,  
ev - ery - where; o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in 6/8 time with a key signature of three flats. The melody is in the treble, and the accompaniment is in the bass. The lyrics are arranged in three numbered lines, with the first line starting on a new musical phrase.

*Refrain*

that shall un - clasp and set me free.  
ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I  
love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,  
O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
O - pen my heart,

The refrain section continues the musical notation with a treble and bass staff. It includes a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line starting on a new musical phrase. The key signature remains three flats and the time signature is 6/8.

# 231 Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

F Dm Gm Dm Am Gm7

1. Sing of one who walks be - side us and this day is  
 2. We have walked with him as strang - ers through the jour - ney  
 3. Ris - en one, stay with us, raise us, once a - gain the

Bb7 Dm C Dm C Bb7

liv - ing still, one who now is clos - er to us  
 of the day, and have told him of the vi - o - lence  
 night is near. Dine with us and share your wis - dom,

Am Bb7 C F F Dm7

than the thoughts our hearts dis - till, Christ who once up -  
 that has swept our hope a - way. He has of - fered  
 free our hearts from ev - 'ry fear. In the calm of

Bb7 Gm7 Bb7 Am7 Bb7 Gm7 C

on a hill - top, raised a - gainst the power of sin,  
 words of com - fort, words of en - er - gy and light.  
 each new eve - ning, in the fresh - ness of each dawn,

F Dm C Gm7 Am Bb7 C6 C F

died in love as his own crea - tures cru - ci - fied their God and Friend!  
 Did our hearts not blaze with - in us as he broke the bread this night?  
 if you hold us fast in friend - ship we will nev - er be a - lone.