

Music Sunday and Communion

May 7, 2023



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

Music Sunday
May 7, 2023

Our Gathering

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



Prelude

“Ciarda” - Alberto Curci

John Morrice, violin &
Scott Horton, piano

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Ken Sawatsky, liturgist

One: We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,

All: Our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

One: We gather to lift our praise to our Holy God who gives us voice, .

All: We bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.

One: We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.

All: No matter our age or ability, we lift the songs of faith and celebrate the gift of music.

***Hymn**

“Sing Praise to God”

#22, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer

Ken Sawatsky, liturgist

Directing God, You raise Your hand and gently begin the concerto of creation: birds carry the melody in the morning while stars keep the beat at night. The mountains and valleys sing out in merriment while the winds and the waves carry the rhythm. All creatures join in dance and little children clap their hands with joy. Love's Composer, our songs and praises are lifted to You today. Amen.

Special Music

“Toccata in A Minor” - Mary G. McCleary

Handbells

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.

*Call to the Table

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

God calls us to the table to find a new way:
a new grace, a new hope, a new faith, a new hymn, a new life.

God calls; we come.

Come to the table and let go of the worn out:
worn out habits, worn out pains, worn out angers, worn out burdens.

God calls; we come.

Come to the table and receive blessing, freedom, mercy, love.

God calls; we praise.

*Hymn of Preparation

"Come to the Table of Grace"

The Communion

The Consecration :: The Story :: The Sharing of Bread and Cup

(All are welcome at this table. Come down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, of which there is a gluten free option for those who would prefer. Return by a side aisle, stopping to get a cup which you then take back to your seat. Eat the bread as you receive it as a sign of God's love for you. Hold the cup until we are all invited to drink together as a sign of our oneness in Christ.)

AFTER-COMMUNION UNISON THANKSGIVING

We have eaten, we have drunk, we have tasted God's goodness which lingers on our palates as a sweet song of salvation.

May this meal we have shared here today fill us with such meaning that we taste the Love which Christ would have us remember. May we go from this table refreshed and replenished, ready to be both recipients of, and agents for, God's Grace in the world. Amen.

Sharing the Story in Word and Song

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 150

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in God's Sanctuary, Praise God in the Mighty Firmament

Praise God for mighty deeds; praise God according to God's exceeding greatness!

Praise God with trumpet sound, Praise God with lute and harp.

Praise God with timbrel and dance,

Praise God with string and pipe! Praise God with sounding cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

***Hymn**

"Sing a New Song"

From the Poet Marcia A. Newton

"You Are the Music"

Ken Sawatsky, liturgist

Anthem

"To Sing Once More" - Courtney/Cook

Chancel Choir

Psalm 8 (C.E.B.)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth! You made your glory higher than heaven! From the mouths of nursing babies you have laid a strong foundation because of your foes, in order to stop vengeful enemies. When I look up at your skies, at what your fingers made— the moon and the stars that you set firmly in place— what are human beings that you think about them; what are human beings that you pay attention to them? You've made them only slightly less than divine, crowning them with glory and grandeur. You've let them rule over your handiwork, putting everything under their feet— all sheep and all cattle, the wild animals too, the birds in the sky, the fish of the ocean, everything that travels the pathways of the sea. Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

***Hymn**

"How Great Thou Art"

Centering Our Hearts and Minds for Prayer

Instrumental

Vasylyna's Tears - Dan Edwards

Handbells

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

Holy God, we praise Your name. In this morning of the first day of the week, all the various conditions are in place and the time has been given for us to offer you praise and prayer and to listen to the Word of Life in this place. We confess that we have missteps that have not been in accordance with Your will. Please guide our daily steps through your Word and let us walk as children of light. Lord,

Listen to your Children Praying,

Lord, Send your Spirit in this place.

Lord God, even at this time, there are people in the world who are facing various difficulties. There are many people who are suffering, grieving, in pain, and seeking God's salvation. Please be close to and give peace to those who lost their lives and loved ones, especially those who lost so many in the war.

Lord, Listen to your Children Praying,

Lord, Send your Spirit in this place.

Our God, today, we remember our friends who are unable to come to this service. There are friends who are getting older and cannot move as much as they would like. Give abundant comfort and encouragement to our friends who are praying in their own places. Be present to those who need you. Give each one of us the help that you deserve at the right time.

Lord, Listen to your Children Praying,

Lord, Send your Spirit in this place.

For all of our intentions, that we hold in the silence of our hearts...

Lord, Listen to your Children Praying,

Lord, Send your Spirit in this place.

Thank you, God, for the great symphony of people of this church you have gathered here today. Continue to lead this family of faith that may we always sing and live your unending song of love.

Lord, Listen to your Children Singing,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Amen

Prayer Response

“Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You” - J. Althouse

Chancel Choir

Invitation to Giving

Ken Sawatsky, 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

“Offertory” - John Ness Beck

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!**

***Prayer of Dedication (in Unison)**

Loving and Holy God, we ask that You would pour out Your blessing on this offering today. Guide us and shape us as servants of love, and use these gifts to bless our church, community, and world with kindness, justice, joy, and peace. Alleluia! And Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“When In Our Music God Is Glorified”

#561, pew hymnal

***Responsive Benediction**

**Go out into the world in peace, and in Christ’s name be –
the humble who make others proud
the poor who have riches to share
the weak who help others be strong
the empty who overflow with loving kindness.
And the largess of the love of God,
and the treasure of the grace of Christ Jesus,
and the buoyant songs of health and peace of the Holy Spirit
will be with one and all now and forever. 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

"When In Our Music" - K. Johnson

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Handbell Selection:

“Vasylyna’s Tears” - Dan R. Edwards

Vasylyna's Tears was written in honor of the Ukrainian people...Vasylyna is a common Ukrainian woman's name - she weeps for her lost countrymen.

Choral Selections:

“To Sing Once More” - Craig Courtney, music; Jonathan Cook, lyricist

*Awake our souls to sing once more the songs that long have silent been.
From troubled nights and fearful days, our notes of praise and joy begin.
Inspired by hope, compelled by grace, we sing your everlasting praise.
Most holy God, your song we seek and trust in your unchanging ways.
With comfort, your eternal voice is music to our fainting soul.
It speaks in times of hurt and wrong, it whispers peace, it makes us whole.
Arise, his children, rise again, your God and maker now adore.
No longer silent, lift your voice, awake your soul to sing once more. Amen.*

“Lord, I stretch my hands to You” - Jay Althouse-

*Lord, I stretch my hands to You; no other help I know.
If You should leave me all alone, where, then, shall I go? Oh, Lord.
Lord, I give my soul to You; I seek Your care and love.
No other blessings do I need but those from You above.*

*Lord, I ask You: Give me faith and help me understand
And Lord when I this life shall leave, just hold me in Your hand.*

*Lord, I stretch my hands to You; no other help I know.
If You should leave me all alone, where, then, shall I go?
Oh, Lord, I stretch my hands to You.*

“Offertory” - John Ness Beck (Based on Micah 6:6-8)

*With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?*

*Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
With ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my transgressions,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

*He has shown you, O man,
He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?*

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - jice— or - gan and
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Düsseldorf, Germany. This was the most familiar of his fifty-six hymn texts, which were published along with many of his original tunes in 1680, the year of his death.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
 Erneueren Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665
 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

Come to the Table of Grace

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)
 F C Dm F7/C B \flat



1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)
 C F C F Gm



ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 F/A B \flat F/C C7 F B \flat F



not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

SING A NEW SONG

REFRAIN *Joyfully, with spirit* (♩ = ca. 144)

Melody Harmony

G D B7 Em

Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your

Am7 D G [G] D

song be sung from moun - tains high. Sing a new song

B7 Em Am7 D G

un - to the Lord, sing - ing al - le - lu - ia. *Fine*

VERSES

G D Am7 D Em

1. Shout with glad - ness! Dance for joy! O come be -
 2. Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - ior
 3. Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry

Am7 D G D

1. fore the Lord. _____ And play for God on
 2. now has come. _____ & He has turned your
 3. of the Lord. _____ The trum - pet sounds; the

Am7 D C Am7 Dsus4 D *D.C.*

1. glad tam - bou - rines, and let your trum - pet sound. _____
 2. sor - row to joy, and filled your soul with song. _____
 3. dead shall be raised. I know my Sav - ior lives. _____

Text: Based on Psalm 98:1, 4-6; Dan Schutte, b. 1947.
 Music: Dan Schutte.
 Text and music © 1972, 2008, OCP. All rights reserved.

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won - der
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der,
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion

con - sid - er all the worlds thy hands have made,
and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing thun - der,
when I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur
that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing,
Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion,

thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played.
and hear the brook, and feel the gen - tle breeze;
he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
and there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art!

**Authors's original words are "works" and "mighty."*

WORDS: Stuart K. Hine, 1953

MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953

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HOW GREAT THOU ART

Irr. with Refrain

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God to thee;

how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

2 Chron. 5:11-14

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
4 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re -

ra - tion leaves no room for pride, It is as though the whole cre -
men - sion in the world of sound, As wor - ship moved us to a
love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, Borne wit - ness to the truth in
joice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to

a - tion cried: Al - le - lu - ia!
more pro - found Al - le - lu - ia!
ev - ery tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
sing al - ways: Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score consists of three systems. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment with treble and bass staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system covers the first four lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next four lines. The third system covers the final four lines, including the 'Alleluia' refrain. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

Fred Pratt Green wrote this text at the request of British editor and composer John Wilson, who asked for a "festival" hymn to be set with Engelberg. Charles Villiers Stanford originally composed the tune for the text "For All the Saints" in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* of 1904.

Tune: ENGELBERG 10.10.10.4.
Charles V. Stanford, 1904

Camp Tam Registration is now open -

- “ Junior Camp: July 16-22 - Grades 3 thru 6
- “ Junior High: July 23-29 - Grades 7 thru 9
- “ Senior High: July 30-Aug 5 - Grades 10 thru 12



Are your kids interested in a camp experience which combines the rustic with the spiritual?

Are you looking for an outlet for your creativity? Are you looking for somewhere you can share your spiritual understanding and bask in the glory of God’s grace?

Do you love spending time in the outdoors? Is an escape from the Fresno heat appealing to you, on any level? Can you chop an onion?

If you have answered yes to one or more of these questions, then Camp Tamarack is waiting. We are looking for counselors, a chaplain and medical supervisors. Chef/Miss Kymberly can always use an assistant. Please call Jeannie Hobson for answers to your staffing questions.

559.903.4542 or email: jeanniehob@comcast.net

Go to NCNCUCC.org and click on the calendar to register for camp.

Sound System Upgrade - A Capital Campaign

The church council approved a capital campaign to replace the aging sound system in the Sanctuary. The Ministry of Resources is asking for your help. An upgraded system with an estimated cost of \$32,000, will make our live streaming more effective and will make Big Red the envy of Van Ness Blvd.

So, please reach deep and help out. A directed donation to the “Sound System Upgrade” will be greatly appreciated.



MOTHER'S DAY

Brunch

MAY 14 AT 11:00AM

Menu

Breakfast Casserole

Fresh Fruit

Mother's Day Sheet Cake

Juice

Coffee

This Week at Big Red

Monday, May 8

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, May 9

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

Wednesday, May 10

- ♦ 08:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 04:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 06:00pm: Handbell rehearsal—Music Room
- ♦ 07:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday, May 11

Friday, May 12

- ♦ 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday, May 13

Sunday, May 14

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Madeleine Guekguezian, Guest preaching
Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Communion Officiant

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

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: Ken Sawatsky

Ushers: Teresa Fuentes, Bruce Owdom

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Pat Morales and Paula Roberts

Acolytes: Avery and Addison

Altar Flowers: Wagman Family in honor of Scott Horton and
the Chancel Choir

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.