

May 14, 2023



First Congregational Church of Fresno United Church of Christ 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. Fresno, CA 93704 Madeleine Guekguezian Guest Preaching Sixth Sunday of Easter—Mother's Day Sunday May 14, 2023



Our Gathering

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

Prelude

"Priere a Notre Dame" - L. Boellman "How Fair and Pleasant are Thou" - M. Dupré Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Madeleine Guekguezian

Melinda Mobley, liturgist

One: Creator God, you call us.

- All: We say, yes, to your invitation and we gather as one to worship you.
- One: Creator God, you invite us to stay with you.
- All: You never leave us, you never forsake us, you abide with us, and we gather as one to worship you.
- One: Creator God, you love us.
- All: Extravagant is your welcome, great is your faithfulness, your grace overflows, and we gather as one to worship you.

#564, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer

*Hymn

Melinda Mobley, liturgist

Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for being with us today and always. You have gathered us here to celebrate you—our Creator, our Mother, our Father—with the gift of your Holy Spirit. Let our worship be all about you as we humbly pray for the Holy Spirit to keep our hearts, minds, and souls in tune with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anthem "All Things Bright and Beautiful" - arr. J. Rutter Chancel Choir

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.

Gordon Light, ©1994 Common Cup Company OneLicense.net License #A-711732

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who art hallowed be thy nam thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in he Give us this day our of And forgive us our de as we forgive our de And lead us not into but deliver us from e For thine is the kingd the power, and the g forever. Amen.	aven. daily bread. ebts, otors. temptation; vil. om,	
*Hymn	"Womb of Life and Source of Being"	#274, pew hymnal
Scripture	Proverbs 31:10–31	Melinda Mobley, liturgist
Message	"Killing with Kindness "	Madeleine Guekguezian
Invitation to Prayer		Madeleine Guekguezian
Sung Call to Prayer Lord, listen to your ch Lord send your Spirit Lord, listen to your ch	in this place.	

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

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Prayers of the Church

Invitation to Generosity

Madeleine Guekguezian

Melinda Mobley, 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).
- \Rightarrow 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	"You Raise Me Up" - arr. J. Martin	Chancel Choir	
*Doxology (Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN)			
Praise God, all cre Praise God, the se Praise Jesus Chris	whom all blessings flow; eatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! ource of all our gifts! ot, whose power uplifts! Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!		
Dedication		Madeleine Guekguezian	
*Closing Hymn	"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"	#467, pew hymnal	
Benediction		Madeleine Guekguezian	
*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.			
Postlude	"Songs My Mother Taught Me" - A. Dvoral	Scott Horton, organ	
	It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.		

We Are Not Our Own

Brian Wren, 1987



5 And if love's en-coun-ters lead us on a way un-cer-tain and un-known, All the saints with prayer sur-round us: we are not a-lone.

This hymn was commissioned for the tenth anniversary of the Liturgical Studies Program of Drew University, New Jersey, in 1987. Brian Wren's melody came to him early on in the writing process and was helpful in the creation of the final hymn text.

6 Let us be a house of wel-come, liv-ing stone up-hold-ing liv-ing stone, Glad-ly show-ing all our neigh-bors we are not our own!

> Tune: YARNTON 8.9.8.5. Brian Wren, 1987 Arr. Fred Graham, 1987

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Gen. 1:1–5; Matt. 26:26–29; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:15–20 Jean Janzen, 1991 Based on the writings of Julian of Norwich



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Womb of Life, and Source of Being



This hymn, which mixes old and new metaphors to express faith and praise to God, known to us as Source, Word, and Spirit (and many other names!), borrows a phrase from Charles Wesley: "Born to give us second birth." According to Ruth Duck, Trinitarian theology provides a model for the life of community. Tune: LADUE CHAPEL 8.7.8.7.D. Ronald Arnatt, 1968 Alternate tunes: HYMN TO JOY; CENTRAL





MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 14 AT 11:00AM

Menu

Breakfast Casserole

Fresh Fruit

Mother's Day Sheet Cake

Juice



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

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 and camp registration questions

559.903.4542 or email: jeanniehob@comcast.net



Sound System Upgrade - A Capital Campaign

HEY! Can you hear me...? This is critically important and necessary. Please

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.

Sequoia Association Annual Meeting Sunday, May 21, 2023, 3:00pm

The Sequoia Association annual meeting will be Sunday, May 21, 2023, 3:00pm at **United Japanese Christian Church 559-322-0701** · **136 N. Villa Ave.** A delicious meal is served after the meeting. All are welcome and you are encouraged to attend – come meet your sisters and brothers of the Sequoia Association.

Background

As a member of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, First Congregational Church of Fresno covenants with a wider church community/association. NCNC is divided into six associations based on geographical locations: Sequoia, Mountain Valley, Sacramento, Bay, Golden Gate, and Santa Clara. The churches within an association work together keeping themselves connected to one another.

The Sequoia Association is comprised of Grace Community, First Congregational of Tulare, United Japanese Christian Church, Ole Ola Congregational Christian Samoan Church, Community UCC and First Congregational Church of Fresno.

This Week at Big Red

Monday, May 15

• 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

<u>Tuesday, May 16</u>

• 06:00pm: Church Council meeting - Parlor

Wednesday, May 17

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

<u>Thursday, May 18</u>

Friday, May 19

• 05:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

<u>Saturday, May 20</u>

Sunday, May 21

- 09:00am: Roots and Branches Fireside Room
- **10:00am:** Worship Service Kim Williams, 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

Madeleine Guekguezian

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 & Fellowship

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Melinda Mobley

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Bob McParland, Sue Karibian

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Church Life

Acolytes: Selena and Sarah

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.