

*Pentecost Sunday*

*May 28, 2023*



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

*Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi  
Guest Pastor*

Pentecost Sunday  
May 28, 2023

## Our Gathering

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

Prelude

“Partita on Ebenezer” - J. Behnke

Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**\*Call to Worship**

Pauline Phillips, liturgist

One: Holy Spirit, Giver of life, in the beginning of time, you moved over the face of the waters; even now, you breathe into every living being the breath of life.

**All: Come, Creator Spirit, and renew the whole creation.**

One: Holy Spirit, voice of the prophets: you inflame men and women with a passion for your truth, and through them, call your people to ways of justice and compassion.

**All: Come, Spirit of Righteousness, and burn in our hearts.**

One: Holy Spirit, Spirit of Jesus: by your power Jesus came to bring good news to the poor and release to those held captive; Holy Spirit, Advocate, Teacher: You speak to us of the Living Christ, and show us the depth of love.

**All: Come, liberating Spirit, and free us from the power of sin and death. Come, Spirit of Truth, dwell in us and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ.**

One: Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame: You filled disciples with joy and courage, empowering them to preach your Word and share your good news.

**All: Holy Spirit, Messenger of Peace: You break down barriers of language, race, and culture, and heal the divisions that separate us.**

One: Holy Spirit, Alpha and Omega: at the close of the age, all creation will be renewed to sing your praise.

**All: Come, Spirit of Power, make us bold witnesses of your redeeming love. Come, Reconciling Spirit, and unite us all in that love. Come, Creator Spirit, and make us new creations!**

**\*Hymn**

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

#286, pew hymnal

## Opening Prayer

Pauline Phillips, liturgist

**Creator God, on Pentecost Day long ago, Your powerful Spirit came upon the saints in Jerusalem. May Your Spirit come upon us and this community of faith here this day. We welcome the flame and light of Your Spirit here in this place today. Renew us with an energized faith and affirm us as Your people here to worship and celebrate with strength, courage and hope in Christ. Amen.**

## Anthem

"Walking in the Spirit" - M. Hayes

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.**

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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

"On Pentecost They Gathered"

#272, pew hymnal

## Scripture

Acts 2: 1-13

Pauline Phillips, liturgist

## Message

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

## Invitation to Prayer

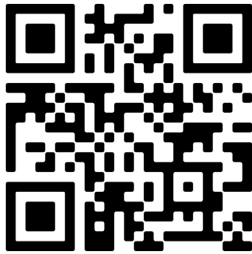
## Sung Call to Prayer

**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**

Pauline Phillips, 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**

**"In His Hands" - arr. Tim Osiek**

**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**

**Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi**

**\*Closing Hymn**

**"Every time I feel the Spirit"**

**#282, pew hymnal**

**Announcement**

**Jeannie Hobson**

**Benediction**

**Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi**

**\*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**

**“Largo, from New World Symphony”  
A. Dvořák**

Scott Horton, organ  
Robbyn Mosley, cornet

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



**Come help construct and decorate our parade entry on Thursday June 1 and Friday June 2 at 5pm in the back parking area, with a bbq to follow on Friday. (BYOLC - Bring your own lawn chair)**



## 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



Please call Jeannie Hobson for more info **559.903.4542** or email: [jeanniehob@comcast.net](mailto:jeanniehob@comcast.net)

### ***Operation: "Let there be Sound!"***



"Verily, I say unto you, blessed are those that give, for they will reap the benefit of clarity of sound, as will we all."

We have an opportunity at a serious injection of cash into our Sound System Upgrade capital campaign. An anonymous donor will match \$3000 in donations through the month of June.

All funds raised will be used for the sole purpose of upgrading the outdated system the church is currently using. This upgrade will allow for a better livestream experience and will address many of the in-person sound issues.

This campaign will run through September with an installation goal of December, just in time for Advent and Christmas.

Yes, \$31,000 is a big ask, but this is a necessary ask. Donations can be made directly by cash or check (Sound System memo line) or through the Givelify app.



All funds will be refunded, if campaign fails to reach its target minimum of \$15,000.

# This Week at Big Red

## Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day - office is closed

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Tuesday, May 30

## Wednesday, May 31

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 4:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Thursday, June 1

- ♦ 5:00pm: Pride Parade prep - Back parking lot

## Friday, June 2

- ♦ 5:00pm: Pride Parade prep and BBQ - Back parking lot and Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Saturday, June 3

- ♦ 9:00am: Pride Parade staging - Corner of Olive and Palm
- ♦ 10:00am: Pride Parade - Olive Ave

## Sunday, June 4

- ♦ 9:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Stephanie Doss, Guest preaching - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour

**Save the Date Pot Luck Swim Party:  
June 11, 2023 2pm**

### **Attention kids and people with kids**

John and Jacquie Shore have graciously made their home available for the Ministry of Christian Education summer swim party and pot luck. And you're all invited.

Swimming starts at 3pm with a lifeguard present.

A more detailed flier is forthcoming.

## **First Congregational Church of Fresno**

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

### **Guest Pastor**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

### **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: Pauline Phillips

Ushers: Harold Householder and Richard van Wyhe

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Zorayde Darce

Acolytes: McKenna and Addison

### **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.



## Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Unison, brightly  
Refrain

James K. Manley, 1978; alt.

*D G A Dsus4 D*

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

*Bm \* E7 Asus7 A7*

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

*D G A Dsus4 D*

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

*Bm G A7 D G D* *Last time, end*

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

*D G A G*

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the  
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the  
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a  
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the  
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a  
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the  
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you  
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their  
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you  
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -  
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -  
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -  
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

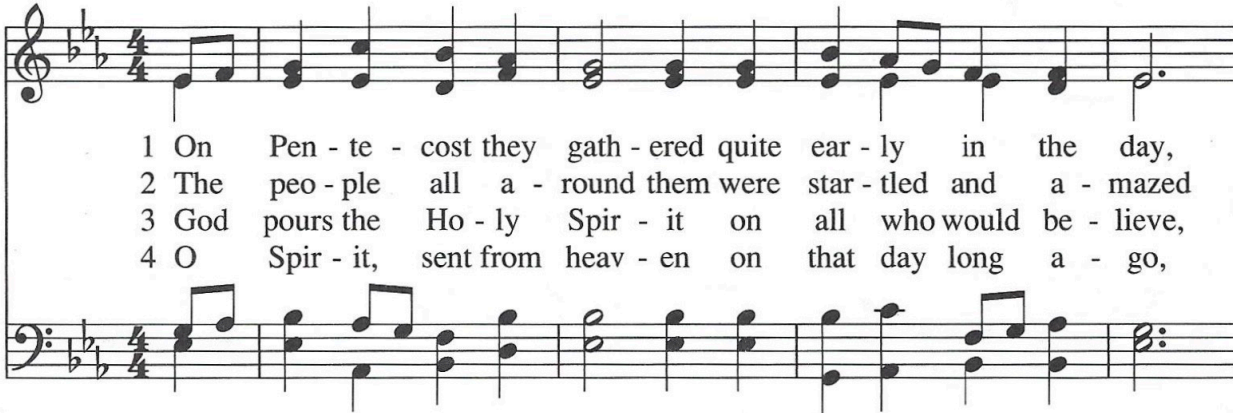
G A7 D G D A7 *to Refrain*

bers and rise on your wings."  
 ets to o - pen their eyes.  
 ple on the rush of the wind.  
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

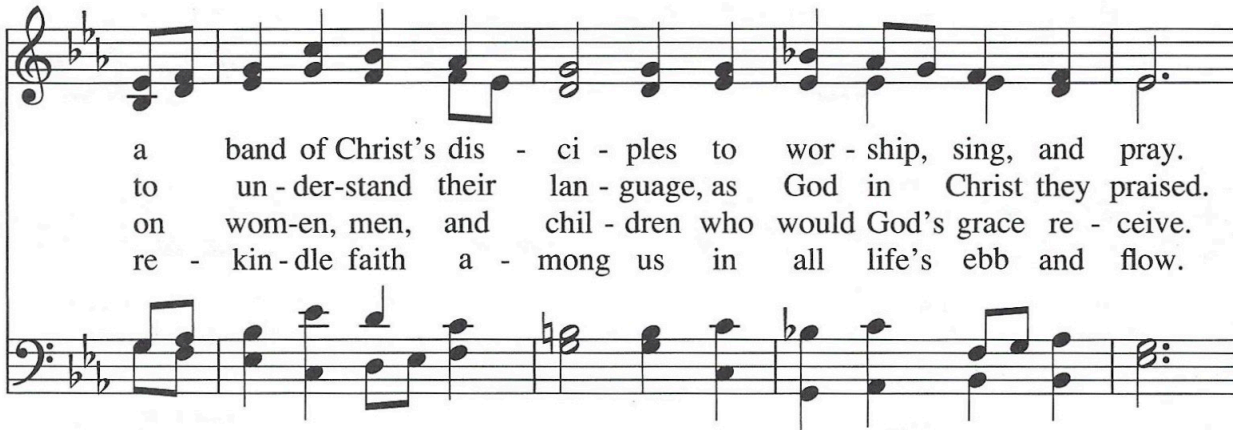


Acts 2:1-24, 32-47

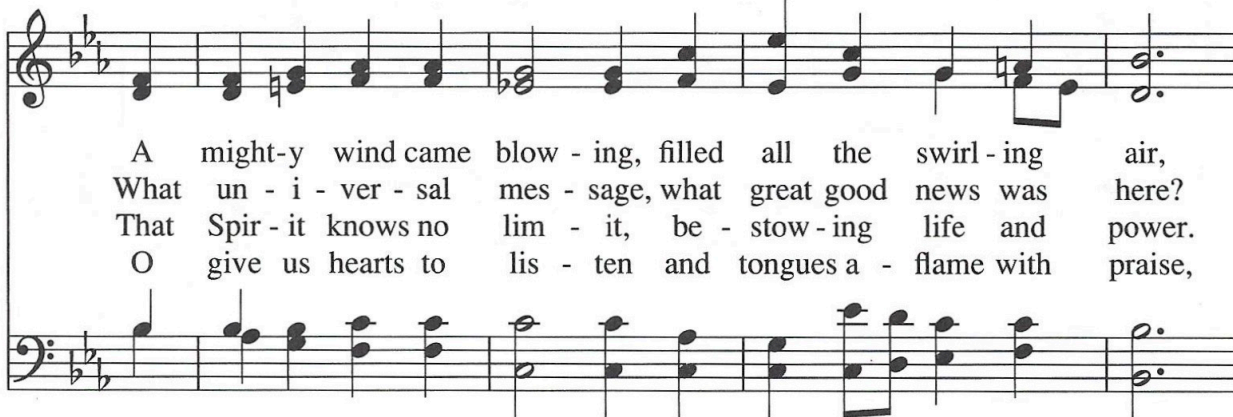
Jane Parker Huber, 1981; rev. 1993



1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,  
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed  
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,  
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,



a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples to wor - ship, sing, and pray.  
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as God in Christ they praised.  
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.  
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.



A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,  
 What un - i - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?  
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.  
 O give us hearts to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,



and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.  
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.  
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.  
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

Jane Parker Huber explained that she wrote this text in 1981  
 "to fill a gap in current hymnody," in that "many of the hymns  
 concerning the activity of the Holy Spirit do not mention  
 Pentecost."

Tune: MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D.  
 Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693  
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

## Every Time I Feel the Spirit

2 Sam. 22:9; Ps. 18:8

African-American spiritual

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will

pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing

Last time, end

in my heart I will pray. 1 Up - on the moun - tain my God  
2 Oh, Jor - dan riv - er, chil - ly and

spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a -  
cold, it chills the bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly

to Refrain

round me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.  
one train on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back.

Among the thousands of spirituals that exist today are songs of gladness and songs of sorrow. This well-known spiritual is a song of joy, captured not only in the words, but in the lively rhythms.

Tune: African-American spiritual  
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992