

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 11, 2023



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

*Charlene Lund
Guest Speaker*

The Call of Abram
June 11, 2023

Our Gathering

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

Prelude

Scott Horton, piano

Welcome

Charlene Lund

***Call to Worship**

Alison Chamberlin, liturgist

Each June we celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride month. We want all people to be accepted as we work toward greater inclusion in every church, workplace, and family.

We gather today to be refreshed, renewed, and strengthened in our faith and in our resolve for the work we must do together.

Listen, there is a voice calling us.

It is the voice of our Divine Beloved.

The one who loves us, invites us to mingle our voices together.

We call out in worship and praise together.

Bring hope, expectations and longings that you have carried with you through out the week.

Here they are. We speak them in our spirit and sing with our words.

Come and worship. Come and praise. Come and pray.

We commit ourselves to this sacred time of celebration.

***Hymn**

"The God of Abraham Praise"

#24, pew hymnal

Prayer For Transformation And New Life

Alison Chamberlin, liturgist

We acknowledge our suffering, brought about by rhetoric in politics and in many churches.

So many of us are sick, scared, dying, or trapped.

Holy God, we can't hold this alone.

We are discouraged and calling out to you.

We acknowledge racism and the increase in violence toward our Black, Asian and Hispanic siblings.

This is unacceptable and sinful. We examine ourselves first for any prejudice which contributes to this violence.

God of Mercy, change us where we need to be changed.

Remind us of our goodness when we praise Your goodness.

The extent of Your image is a mystery to us. Help us to see this great mystery in ourselves.

Give us strength to claim our identity.

We become scared that others will mock us for seeing Your image as our intrinsic nature.

Find us, O God, in the midst of our fear. Give us strength to proclaim, “We are made in the image of The Divine!”

Opening Prayer

Alison Chamberlin, liturgist

Special Music

“It Is Well with My Soul”

Pete Espinoza, soloist

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 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**

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

#417, pew hymnal

Scripture

Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26 Alison Chamberlin, liturgist

Genesis 12:1-9

The LORD said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you.”

Abram left just as the LORD told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the LORD who appeared to him. From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and worshiped in the LORD's name. Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

As Jesus continued on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. He said to him, "Follow me," and he got up and followed him. As Jesus sat down to eat in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners joined Jesus and his disciples at the table.

But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

When Jesus heard it, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what this means: *I want mercy and not sacrifice. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners.*"

While Jesus was speaking to them, a ruler came and knelt in front of him, saying, "My daughter has just died. But come and place your hand on her, and she'll live." So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. Then a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the hem of his clothes. She thought, If I only touch his robe I'll be healed.

When Jesus turned and saw her, he said, "Be encouraged, daughter. Your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that time on.

When Jesus went into the ruler's house, he saw the flute players and the distressed crowd. He said, "Go away, because the little girl isn't dead but is asleep"; but they laughed at him. After he had sent the crowd away, Jesus went in and touched her hand, and the little girl rose up. News about this spread throughout that whole region.

Message

"How I got to Where I am with God : My Faith Journey " Charlene Lund

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.

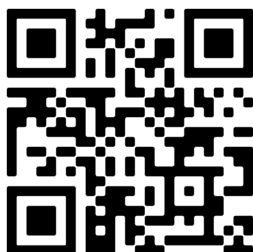
1973, Hope, Publishing CO., All rights reserved.

Prayers of the Church

Charlene Lund

Invitation to Generosity

Alison Chamberlin, 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

*Doxology (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

*Dedication

Charlene Lund

*Closing Hymn

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

#495, pew hymnal

Announcements

Jeannie Hobson, moderator

Go forth: When the light is too bright

be comforted in the shadows

When the dark is too dense

be illumined by the light

When the road is too rocky

be soothed by the grass

When the chill is biting

be warmed by the breath of God. 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.

1988, Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved.

OneLicense.net License # A-711732

Postlude

“Postscript on MIDDLEBURY” - G. Martin

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

Worship Resources:

Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Mak Kneebone, who is passionate about creating wholeness in our broken world by following the path of Jesus as Christ.

Summer Sunday School Schedule

June 18: No Sunday School

June 25: Yes

July 2: Yes

July 9: Yes

July 16: No Sunday School

July 23: Yes

July 30: Yes

The theme this summer is: “Paper Mache is Fun and Messy...Let’s See What We Can Make”

Sidebar:

I am the lone volunteer for the summer. So, all the kids will be with me in room 5. I do need help. Give me one Sunday; come see why our children are my passion. Let’s see if we can make them yours.

Kenny Schoelen



FATHER'S DAY

BRUNCH



18TH JUNE 2023 | AT 11 AM



Fellowship Hall



Swim Party and potluck

Sunday June 11th 2pm to 4pm

Hamburgers!

The Shore Residence
8581 Chickadee Ln
Clovis 559 299 6846

Hot Dogs!

Lifeguard will be on duty

Please provide:
towels
sunscreen
drinks
sides
chips
dessert



Today

Camp Tam Registration is now open -

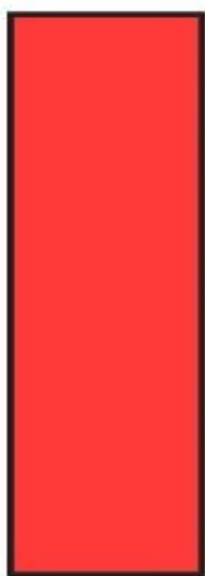
- Junior Camp: July 16-22 - Grades 3 thru 6
- Junior High: July 23-29 - Grades 7 thru 9
- Senior High: July 30-Aug 5 - Grades 10 thru 12



Please call Jeannie Hobson for more info **559.903.4542** or email: jeanniehob@comcast.net

Update: \$4,050 raised. New match challenge: \$2,000

To date
with
\$3,000
matching
funds, we
have
raised
\$7,050



\$31,000

\$20,000

\$10,000

\$5,000

\$1,000



Operation

"Let There Be Sound"

**A capital campaign.
Please help Big Red
with its
SOUND SYSTEM
UPGRADE**

**JOIN US IN REACHING OUR
GOAL OF \$31,000!**

**Donate with cash or check with "Sound
System" memo line or thru the Givelify app.**

This Week at Big Red

Monday, June 12

- ♦ 9:00am: KIDmunity - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, June 13

- ♦ 9:00am: KIDmunity - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 6:00pm: M.O.M. - Minturn Chapel

Wednesday, June 14

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 9:00am: KIDmunity
- ♦ 4:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Thursday, June 15

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

Friday, June 16

- ♦ 9:00am: KIDmunity - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday, June 17

- ♦ 10:00am: KIDmunity Music Program - Sanctuary

Sunday, June 18

- ♦ 9:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Kenny Schoelen, Guest speaking - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Father's Day Brunch - Fellowship Hall

**Save the dates: June 23 and June 24 - Free Food Saturday
Preparation and distribution, 10am in the Fellowship Hall**

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Guest in the Pulpit

Charlene Lund

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: Alison Chamberlin

Ushers: Teresa Fuentes ands Mike Gostanian

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour:

Acolytes: Avery 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.

Yigdal Elohim Chai

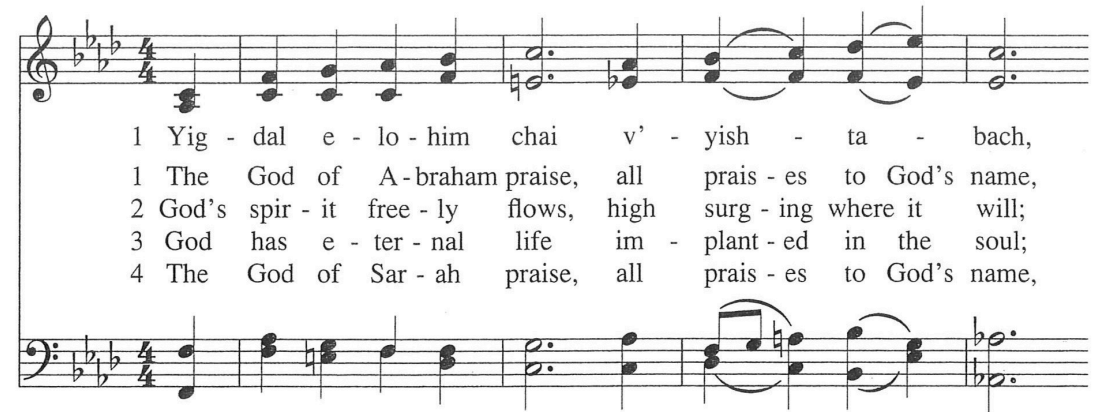
(The God of Abraham Praise)

Gen. 12:1; 17:15-16; Exod. 3:14; Isa. 44:6; Rev. 4:8

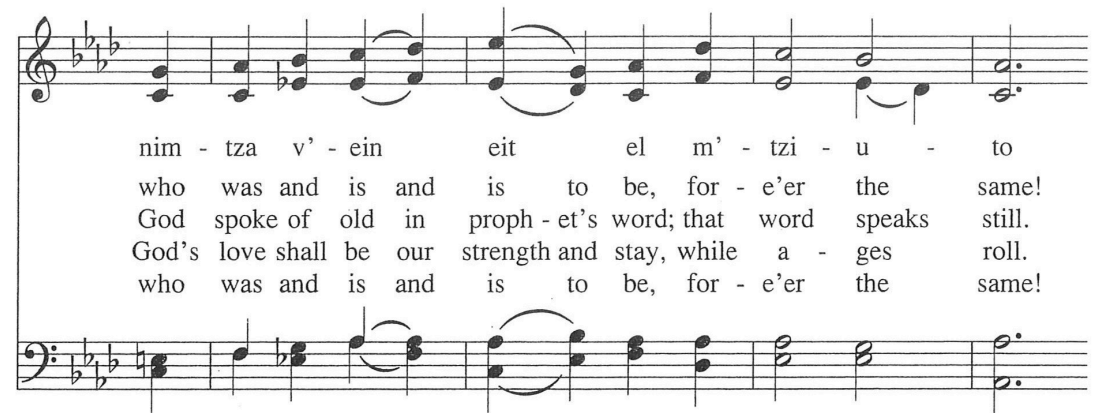
Moses Maimonides, 12th century

Versification attrib. to Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400


Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt.



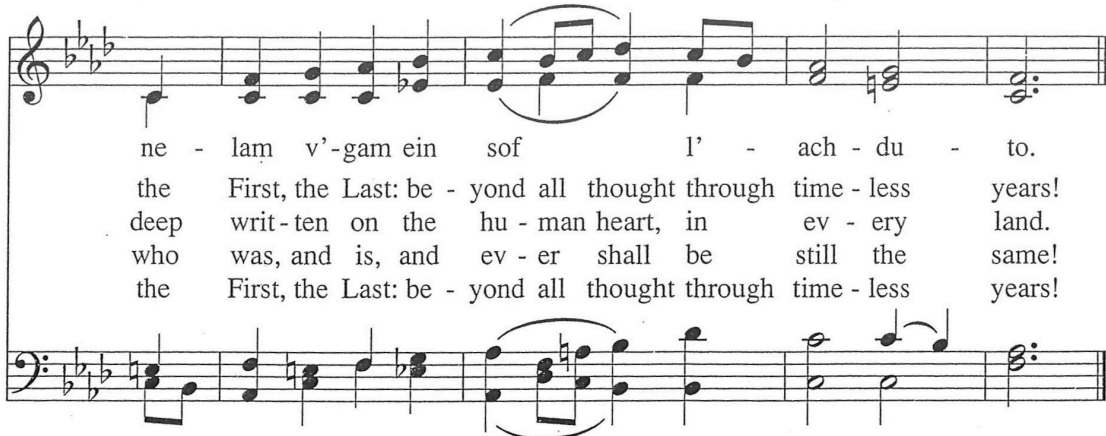
1 Yig - dal e - lo - him chai v' - yish - ta - bach,
 1 The God of A - braham praise, all prais - es to God's name,
 2 God's spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will;
 3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;
 4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name,



nim - tza v' - ein eit el m' - tzi - u - to
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!
 God spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still.
 God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!



E - chad v' - ein ya - chid k' - yi - chu - do,
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;
 Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand,
 All praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name,
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;



ne - lam v' - gam ein sof I' - ach - du - to.
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!
 deep writ - ten on the hu - man heart, in ev - ery land.
 who was, and is, and ev - er shall be still the same!
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 * In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.


Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
 Carlton R. Young, 1987

Called as Partners in Christ's Service


495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981


John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22





1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life





We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

E-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

For another key, see 43, 368