

*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost and
Communion
July 2, 2023*



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

*Chris Williams, Member in Discernment
Guest Speaker*

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 2, 2023



Our Gathering

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

Prelude “God and the Nation”, John Scriveyner, arranger Catherine English, organ

Welcome Chris Williams, member in discernment

***Call to Worship** Peter Wall, liturgist

All: *For we have been greeted by our God.*

One: O Dance for God a waltz of welcome

All: *For we have been embraced by our God.*

One: O Create for God a portrait of hope.

All: *For we have been inspired by our God.*

***Hymn** “This is My Song” #591 pew hymnal

Opening Prayer Peter Wall

You patiently wait for us on the threshold of your Realm, ready to welcome us as we step across the doorway of your Kin-dom. As we see your inviting lights, we feel the warmth of your love. May we open doors to your Realm. May we be your encouraging embrace and your melodic voice of welcome in a world filled with harsh tones. Amen.

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 of Preparation

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

#342, pew hymnal

Invitation to Communion

Chris Williams

The Spirit of Creation is with you!
And the Spirit of Creation walks next to you.
Open wide your souls.
We open them to the Creator's love.
Let us give thanks to the God of Earth and Rain.
With joyous voices, hearts, and hands, we exclaim to God our praise

Prayer of Communion

...With glory to our God, we praise the Spirit of Creation:
Holy, Holy, Holy, Spirit of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water,
Heaven and Earth delights in your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna.
Blessed is the one who brings love and light to our world.
Hosanna to our God. Alleluia!

Blessing of Communion Elements

The Sharing

(When invited to come forward, approach the pastor down the center aisle to receive bread; you may eat as you receive it as a sign of the love and forgiveness offered you, personally, in Christ's name. Then proceed to the appropriate side aisle to receive a cup, and take it back to your pew and wait until invited to partake, a sign of our oneness in Christ. Children are invited to fully take part, and with the following hymn may exit through the front side door to their respective classrooms for the day's planned activity.)

Holy God, Divine Designer-

With gentle compassion, you unite us as vine and branches, whether near or far. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with the Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts and excited to proclaim your radical love in this world. Amen.

*Hymn	"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" vs. 1, 5, 6	#543, pew hymnal
Scripture	Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42	Peter Wall, liturgist
Sermon		Chris Williams

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	Chris Williams
Invitation to Generosity	Peter Wall, 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	"God Bless Our Land", John Sciveyner	Catherine English
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***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**

Chris Williams

***Closing Hymn**

“God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command”

#592, pew hymnal

Benediction

Chris Williams

***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

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”,
Lani Smith, arranger

Catherine English, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.



Exploration Hour Opportunity: We Want You(r) Voices!

Our next Summer Choir Sing-along will be on July 30th!

If you like to sing, we would love to have you!

All ages are welcome!

We will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00am for practice and will prepare an anthem for service.

All music will be ready for you. No robes will be worn

Our next Summer Choir Sing-along will be on Aug 13th!

New from the pews: **Camp Tam is getting close**

- Jr/Jr. High Camp: July 16-22 - Grades 3 thru 6
- Senior High: July 30-Aug 5 - Grades 10 thru 12



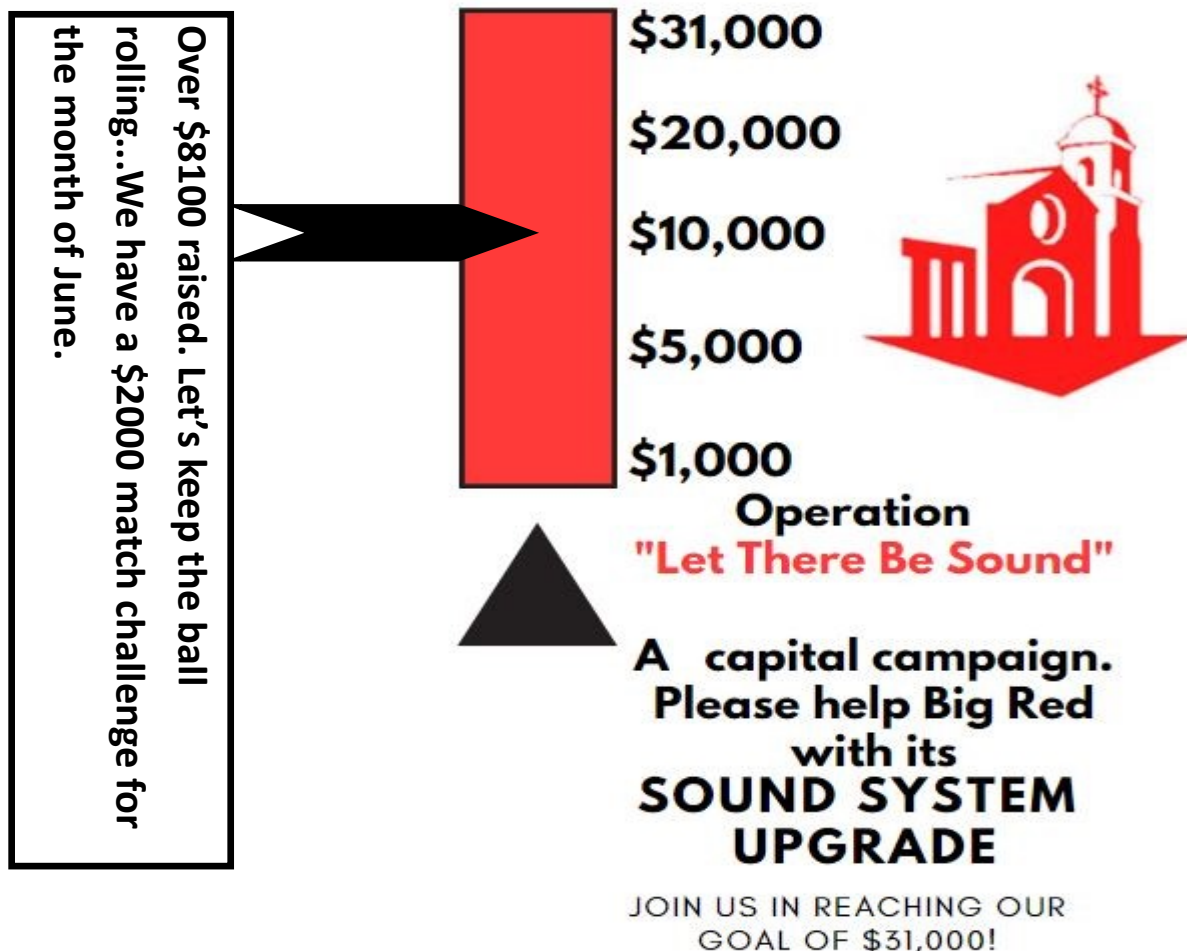
Camp Tamarack Update

After repeated pleas and many hours of calling, emailing etc. we could not fill needed staff for Jr. High camp. We don't want our youth to be unable to enjoy a safe and exciting time at camp, so we have moved the dates of Jr. High to coincide with Jr. camp – July 16-22. We'll have 2 cohorts that are age appropriate as needed.

There is still time to register for all camps. **Deadlines for registration** : July 8th for Jr /Jr High Camp and July 15th for Sr. High camp. In addition, if you want to volunteer as camp staff it is not too late.

Questions? Contact me at: jeanniehob@comcast.net or 559-903-4542

Jeannie Hobson



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

This Week at Big Red

Monday July 3

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, July 4 - Office will be closed

Wednesday July 5

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

Thursday July 6

Friday July 7

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday July 8

Sunday July 9

- ♦ 9:00am: Root and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Kurt Schwartzmann, Guest Speaker
Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Hosted by Pete Espinoza - Fellowship Hall



Save the Date:

September 24, 2023 - JAZZ ON VAN NESS

Hey, guess what?

Jazz on Van Ness concert tickets will go on sale August 6, following worship service. Tickets will be available in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Guest in the Pulpit

Chris Williams, Member in Discernment

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Technicians

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Assisting in Today's Service & Fellowship

Organist: Catherine English

Liturgist: Peter Wall

Ushers: Harold Householder, Richard van Wyhe

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Pat Morales and Kymberly Lindsey

Acolytes: on Summer vacation

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.

This Is My Song

Ps. 82:8

Lloyd Stone, 1934

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
 2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
 beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
 sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
 where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.

Jean Sibelius, 1899

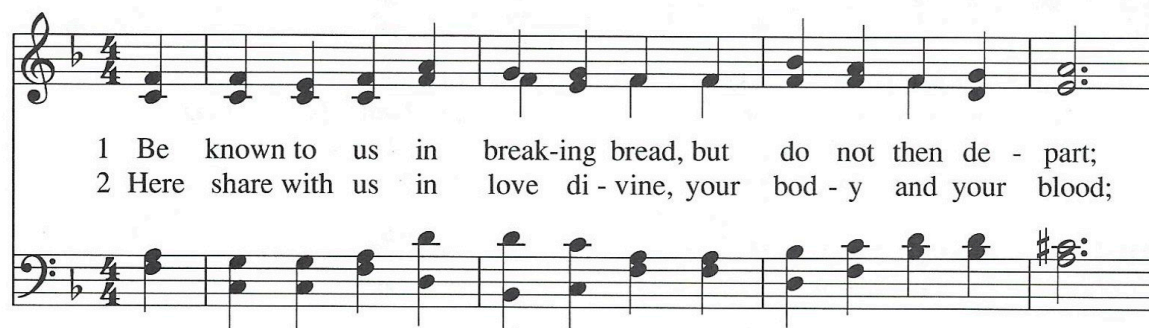
Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

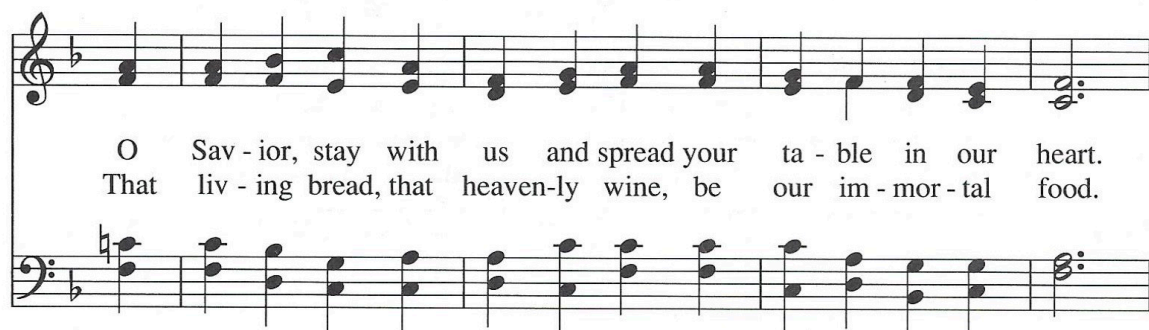
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James Montgomery, 1825; alt.

Luke 24:30–31, 35



1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
2 Here share with us in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood;



O Sav - ior, stay with us and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
That liv - ing bread, that heaven-ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

This hymn is sometimes found as the second and third stanzas of an American hymn, "Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless." Montgomery—Moravian poet, journalist, humanitarian, and author of more than 400 hymns—titled this hymn "The Family Table."

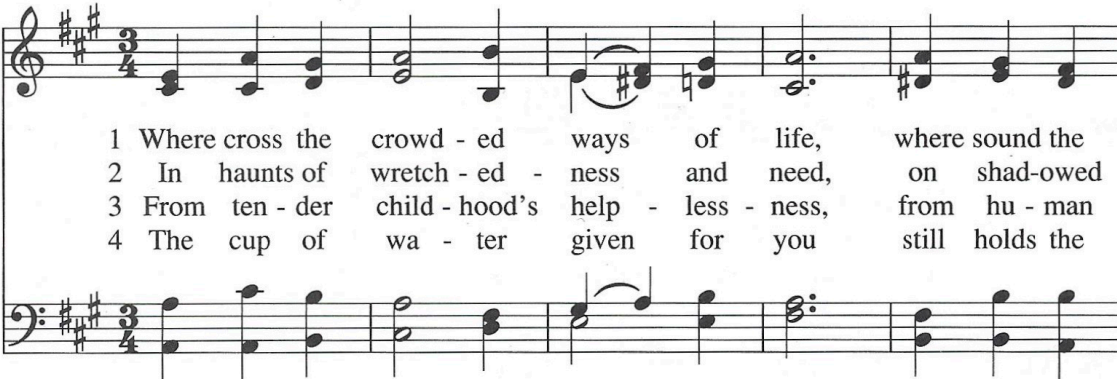
Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
Day, The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

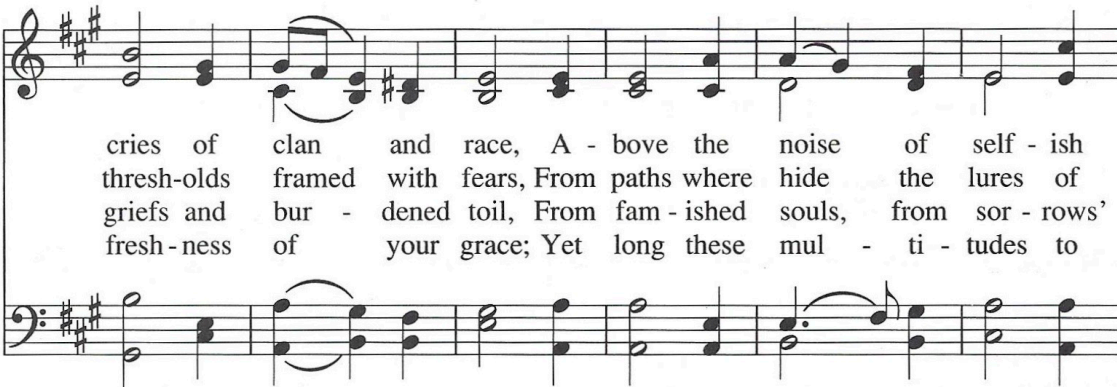
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Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

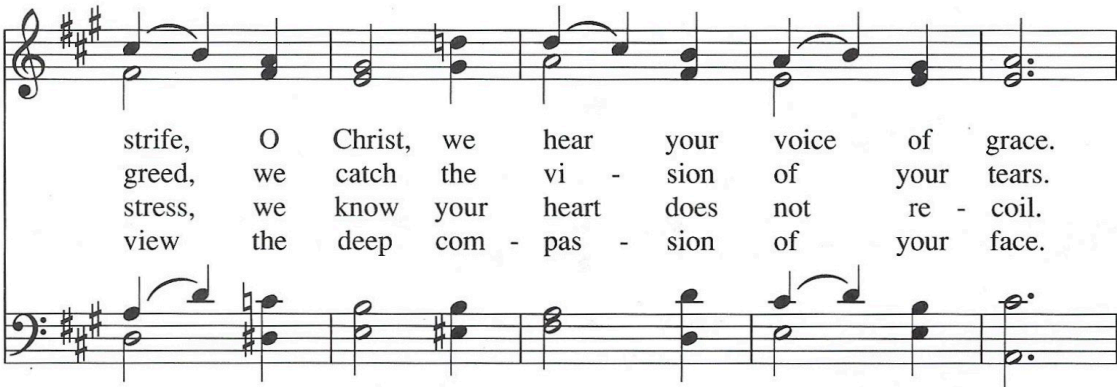
Luke 19:41; Matt. 10:42; Rev. 22:20



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad-owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the



cries of clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish
 thresh-olds framed with fears, From paths where hide the lures of
 griefs and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'
 fresh-ness of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to



strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.
 greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 stress, we know your heart does not re - coil.
 view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Sav-ior, from
 the moun-tain-side,
 Make haste to heal
 these hearts of pain;
 A-mong these rest-less
 throngs a-bide,
 O tread the cit-y's streets a-gain:

6 Till all shall learn
 com-pas-sion's might,
 And fol-low where
 your feet have trod,
 Till glo-rious from
 your realm of light,
 Shall come the cit-y of our God.

God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command

592

Daniel Crane Roberts, 1876; alt.

1 God of the a - ges, who with sure com-mand
 2 Your pur - pose, just, en - vi - sions mor-tals free;
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
 4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on life's toil-some way;

brought forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 God, set our path toward hu - man lib - er - ty.
 with stead - fast care be ev - er our de - fense;
 lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen-dor through the skies,
 Still be our rul - er, guard-ian, guide, and stay—
 Your love and faith with - in our hearts in - crease;
 With truth and love guide us through er - ror's maze,

our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
 your Word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
 with boun-teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and we shall give you glo - ry, laud, and praise.

Episcopal priest Daniel Crane Roberts wrote this hymn for a July 4, 1876, centennial celebration at Brandon, Vermont. George W. Warren, composer of the tune, was organist at St. Thomas' Church in New York City for thirty years.

Tune: NATIONAL HYMN 10.10.10.10.
 George William Warren, 1892