

*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
July 16, 2023*



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

*Parker Chamberlin  
Guest Speaker*



## 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**

“We Would Be Building”

#607, pew hymnal

**Scripture**

Romans 8:1-11

Gayle Thornton

So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. People who are self-centered aren't able to please God. But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

**Message**

“Freedom From Fear”

Parker Chamberlin

## 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

Parker Chamberlin

## Invitation to Generosity

Gayle Thornton



*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

“I Will Sing the Wondrous Story”

Catherine English

Arranged by Wilbur Held

## \*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

Parker Chamberlin

## \*Closing Hymn

“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

#423, pew hymnal

## Benediction

Parker Chamberlin

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**\*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**

“To God Be the Glory”  
Arranged by Mary Ellen Kerrick

Catherine English

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

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*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour*

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

Our next Summer Choir Sing-along will be on July 30<sup>th</sup>!

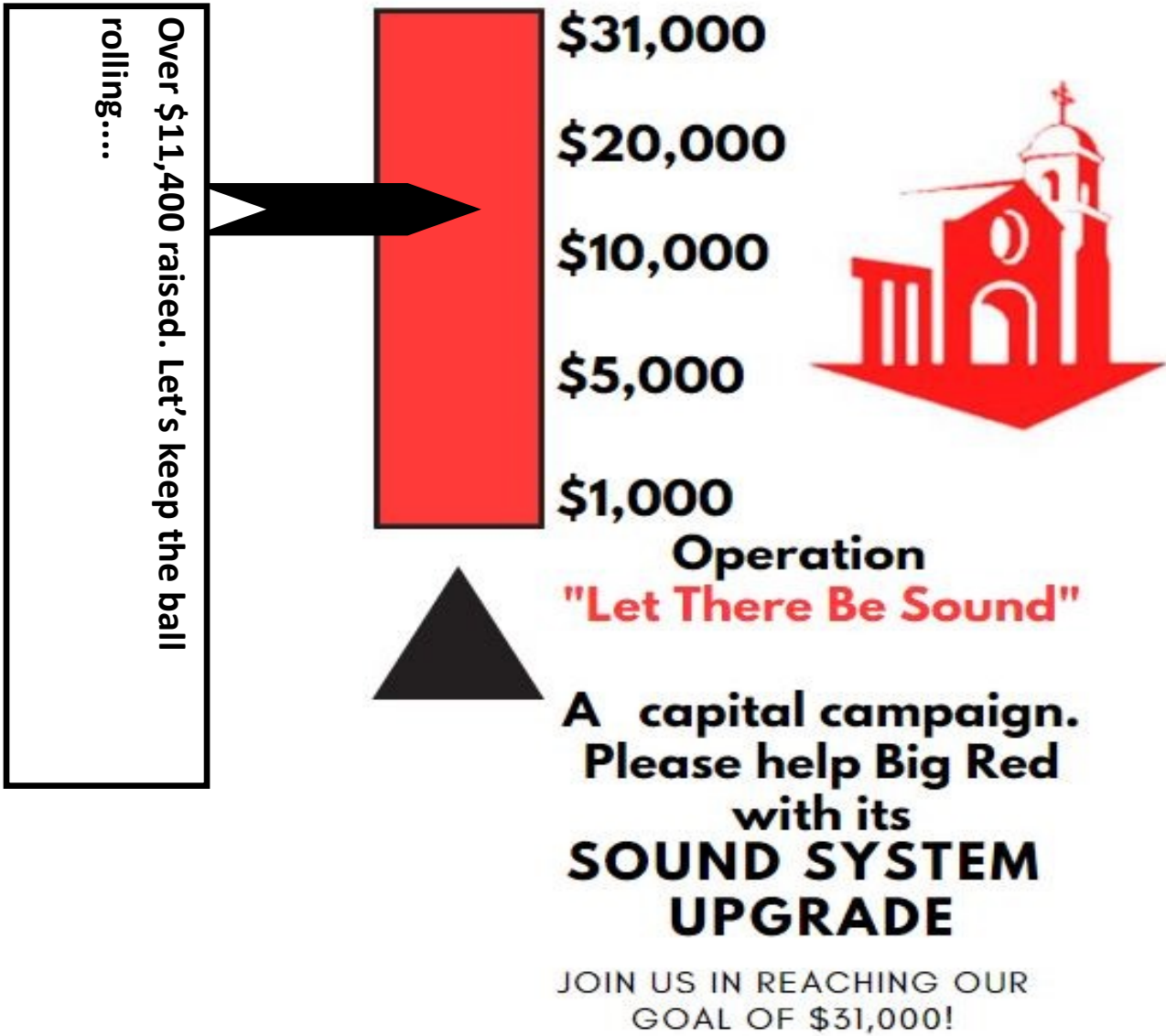
If you like to sing, we would love to have you!

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 13<sup>th</sup>!



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

**Important information:**

- Starting July 17 office hours will be 9am to 1pm until August 7
- Jeannie Hobson will be covering the office July 17 to July 21
- Victoria Salinas will be covering the office July 24 to August 4
- The office manager may be reached via email during this time.  
[office@bigredchurch.org](mailto:office@bigredchurch.org)

# This Week at Big Red

This week - Office hours will be Monday through Friday

9am to 1pm

Monday, July 17

- ♦ Yoga will resume Wed August 2nd

Tuesday, July 18

- ♦ 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting - Parlor

Wednesday, July 19

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, July 20

Friday, July 21

Saturday, July 22

- ♦ Senior High camp registration deadline

Sunday, July 23

- ♦ 9:00am: Root and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Peter Wall, Guest Speaker - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall



**Save the Date:**

**September 24, 2023 - JAZZ ON VAN NESS**

*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**

Parker Chamberlin

## **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: Catherine English

Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

Ushers: Teresa Fuentes, Cliff Dodd, Pat Morales

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Alan Fry and Dianne Williamson

## **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.

# You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

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Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

## Unison

D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!  
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!  
3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!  
4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!  
Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!  
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!  
Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

## Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain  
Marty Haugen, 1986

1 We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done o'er crum - bling  
 2 Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock we set the  
 3 O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands ne'er fal - ter

walls their cross - es scarce - ly lift, wait - ing till love can  
 dream that hard - ens in - to deed, ribbed with fine steel, both  
 when the dream is in our hearts, when to our ears there

raise the bro - ken stone, and hearts cre - a - tive  
 time and change to mock, the un - fail - ing pur - pose  
 come di - vine com - mands and all the pride of

bridge the hu - man rift. We would be build - ing,  
 of our no - blest creed. Teach us to build; O  
 sin - ful will de - parts. We build with you; O

Ar - chi - tect Di - vine, re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.  
 Mak - er, lend us sight to see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.  
 grant en - dur - ing worth un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,\*  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.  
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.  
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

\*originally "my Father"

*This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.*

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain  
 William M. Runyan, 1923

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your

hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!