

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 30, 2023



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

Madeleine Guekquezian
Guest Speaker

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

Our Gathering

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

Prelude

“Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier” - P. Fey

Scott Horton, organ

“Tuba Tune” - C.S. Lang

***Call to Worship**

Wyatt Stephenson, liturgist

One: God, our Creator whose being is evident in every human being,

All: *we gather together —hoping that our worship may remind us that every person bears your image; especially our beloved kinfolk with disabilities whom our systems and Institutions exclude and harm more often than not.*

One: Jesus Christ, our Redeemer who knew what it meant to exist in a human body,

All: *We gather together —hoping that we may learn from your abundant welcome and healing to be healers of the world acting in sacred solidarity with those who suffer because of the ways we currently do things; especially our beloved kinfolk with disabilities whom our systems and institutions exclude and harm more often than not.*

One: Holy Spirit, our Enduring Sustainer who is the breath behind our every breath,

All: *we gather together —hoping that we may remember that all life is sacred, wonder-full, and part of God’s hopes for Creation; especially our beloved kinfolk with disabilities whom our systems and institutions exclude and harm more often than not.*

One: Let us worship together, bound in common union by God, our Creator,

All: *Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, our Enduring Sustainer who looks on humankind in all its ages, shapes, and abilities as beloved.*

***Hymn**

“How Can We Name a Love”

Opening Prayer

Wyatt Stephenson

Great Healer who knows our pains and struggles, we pray that we may have faith and courage to reach out to you hoping against hope that even a brush against your cloak may suffice to bring us back into wholeness. We pray that you may move with us, especially when moving through this world is made profoundly difficult by unjust social systems. Make us faithful servants, Jesus Christ, so that we co-create new ways of being together so that those among us with disabled minds and bodies are recognized as wonderfully made in the image of God, our Creator, and fully woven into the tapestry of our lives together. O God make it so. Amen.

Time for Discovery [*children are invited to the chancel steps*]*Madeleine Guekguezian*

**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“O Savior, Let Me Move with You”***Scripture****Mark 5:25–34**

Wyatt Stephenson

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had, and she was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his cloak, I will be made well.” Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my cloak?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’ ” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

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

Madeleine Guekguezian

Invitation to Generosity

Wyatt Stephenson



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

"Seek Ye First" - K. Lafferty

Summer Choir

***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.

***Pray of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Madeleine Guekguezian

***Closing Hymn**

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Pew Hymnal #388

Announcements

***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.**

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Postlude

“Toccata” - G. Young

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude

This Week at Big Red

Monday July 31

- ♦ **Yoga will resume August 13th**

Tuesday August 1

Wednesday August 2

- ♦ **8:00am:** Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday August 3

Friday August 4

- ♦ **7:00pm:** CA Opera Association “Artists Showcase” - Sanctuary

Saturday August 5

- ♦ **7:00pm:** CA Opera Association Doctors’ Concert - Sanctuary

Sunday August 6

- ♦ **9:00am:** Root and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ **10:00am:** Worship Service - Rev. Sofia DeWitt, Guest Pastor
- ♦ **11:00am:** Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall hosted by Dolores Torres and Pete Espinosa

Important reminder:

Next Sunday tickets for *Jazz on Van Ness* go on sale during Coffee Hour and will be available in the church office during church office business hours.

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

Guest in the Pulpit

Madeleine Guekguezian

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Office@bigredchurch.org

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey

Technicians

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

Assisting with Today's Service and Worship

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Wyatt Stephenson

Ushers: Rebecca Kliewer, Gene Kliewer
Teresa Fuentes

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Linda Popovich
and Deanna Householder

FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

We believe that all people are sacred creations
of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists

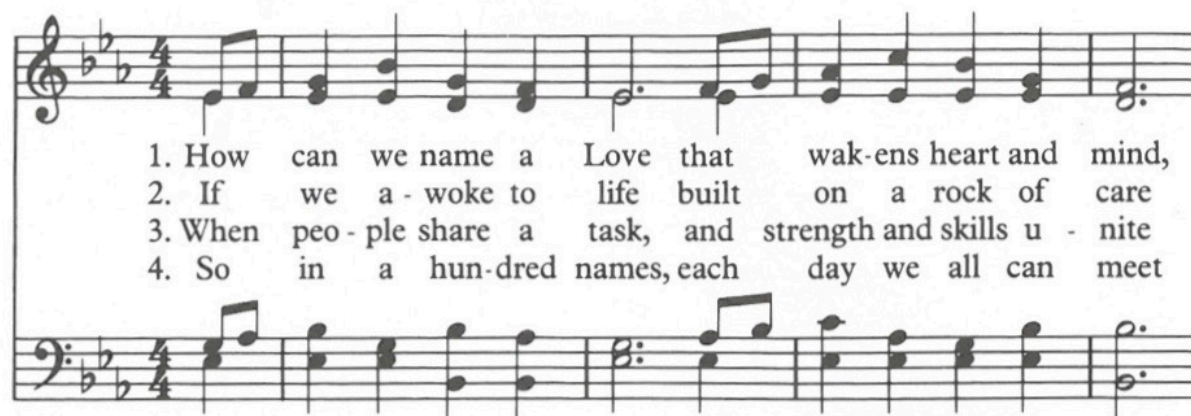
among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

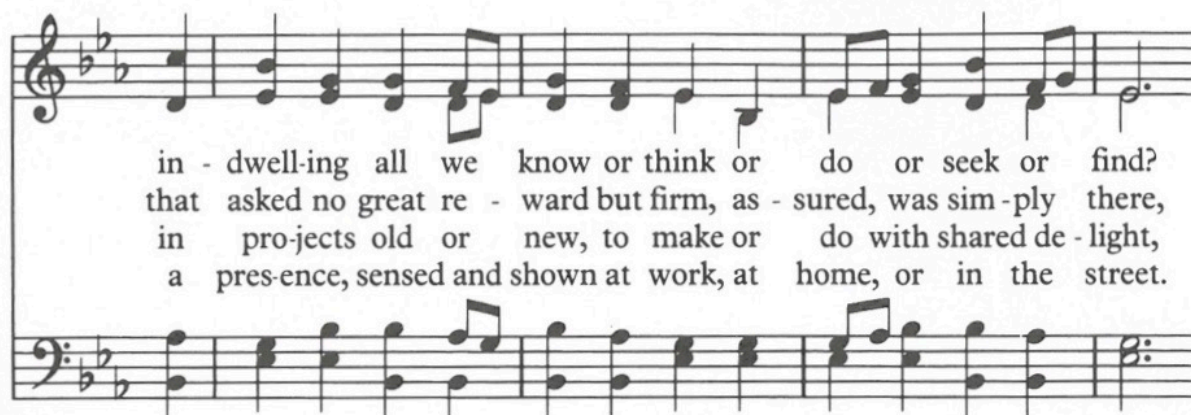
We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

How Can We Name a Love

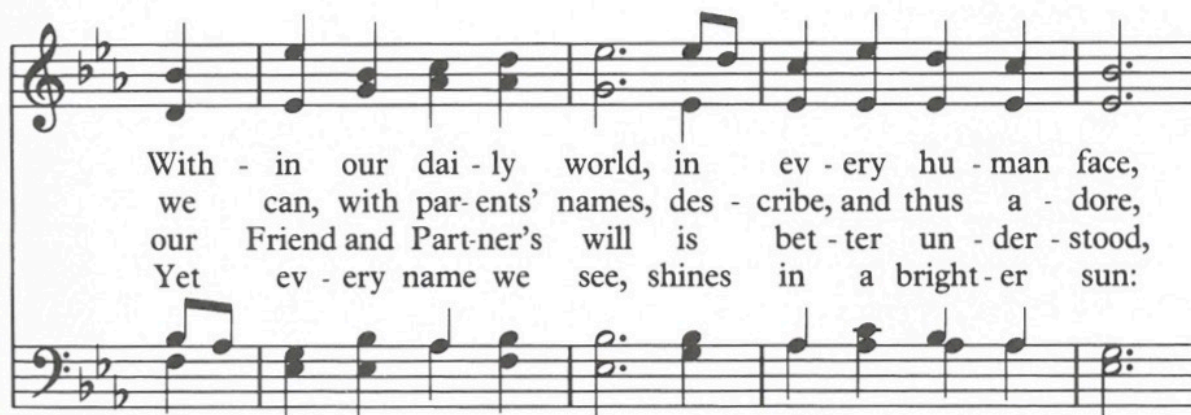
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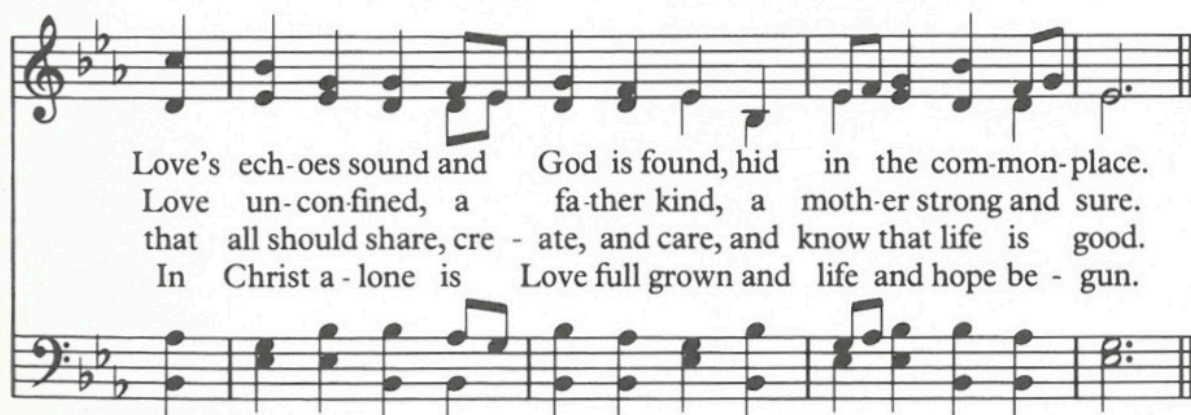
1. How can we name a Love that wak-ens heart and mind,
 2. If we a - woke to life built on a rock of care
 3. When peo - ple share a task, and strength and skills u - nite
 4. So in a hun-dred names, each day we all can meet



in - dwell-ing all we know or think or do or seek or find?
 that asked no great re - ward but firm, as - sured, was sim - ply there,
 in pro-jects old or new, to make or do with shared de - light,
 a pres-ence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.



With - in our dai - ly world, in ev - ery hu - man face,
 we can, with par-ents' names, des - cribe, and thus a - dore,
 our Friend and Part-ner's will is bet - ter un - der - stood,
 Yet ev - ery name we see, shines in a bright - er sun:



Love's ech-oes sound and God is found, hid in the com-mon-place.
 Love un-confined, a fa-ther kind, a moth-er strong and sure.
 that all should share, cre - ate, and care, and know that life is good.
 In Christ a - lone is Love full grown and life and hope be - gun.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1973

MUSIC: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

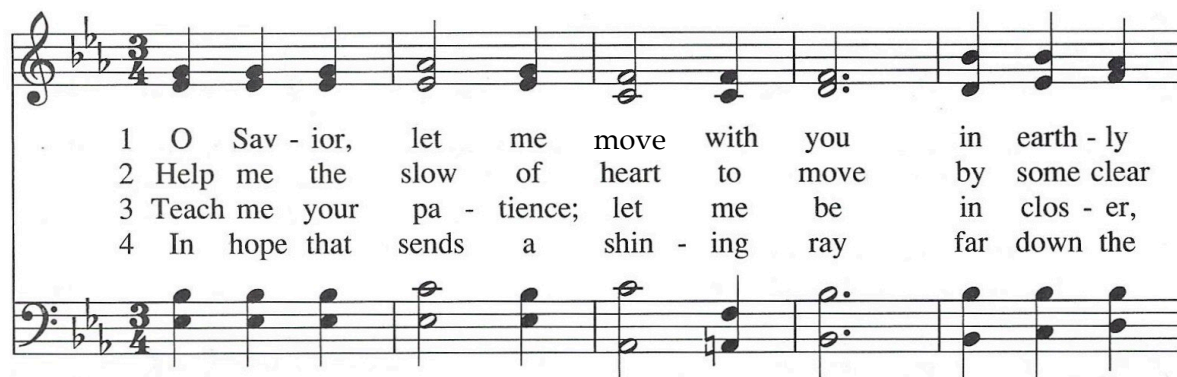
TERRA BEATA

SMD

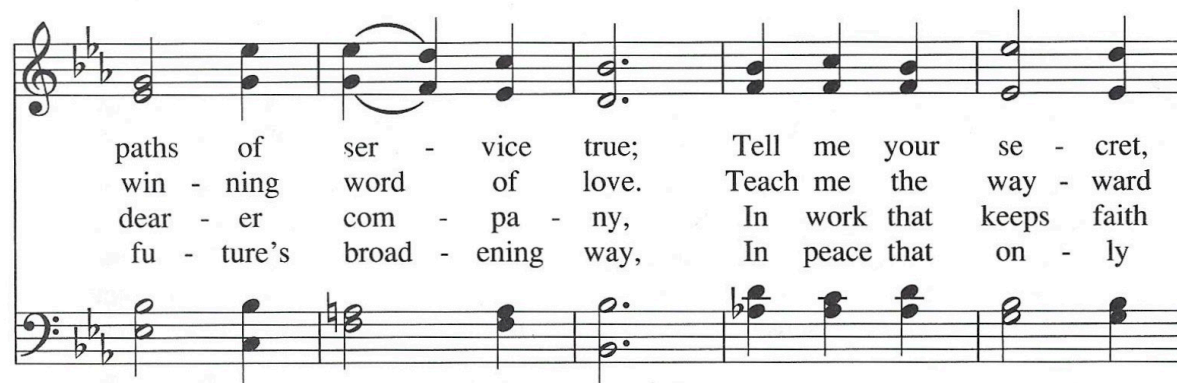
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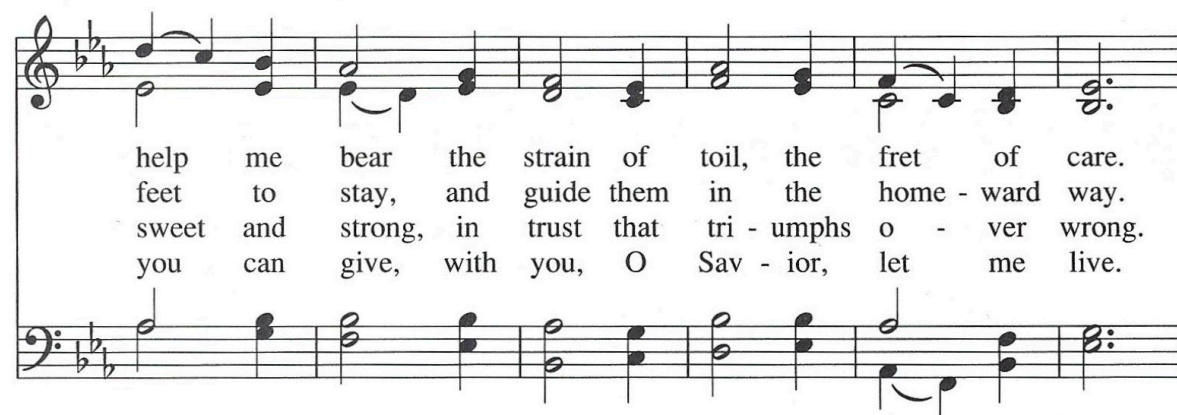
O Savior, Let Me Move with You

Washington Gladden, 1879; alt.


1 O Sav - ior, let me move with you in earth - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; let me be in clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; Tell me your se - cret,
 win - ning word of love. Teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 you can give, with you, O Sav - ior, let me live.

Washington Gladden was a Congregational minister, distinguished preacher and lecturer, and author of over thirty works. Gladden wrote extensively on civic and social affairs of his day. This hymn was penned in 1879 and published in his periodical, The Sunday Afternoon.

Tune: MARYTON L.M.
 H. Percy Smith, 1874

Help Us Accept Each Other

388

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

John 15:12; 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16

- 1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may be-come.
- 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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