

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023*

ALOHA
FOR MAUI

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

*Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
Guest Pastor*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023

Our Gathering

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

Prelude

Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi, Guest Pastor

***Call to Worship**

Parker Chamberlin, liturgist

One: O God Embodied, the one made flesh who dwelt among us, help us to arrive this morning with a “yes.” A “yes” to our faith that says our bodies are good and holy, just as and however they are.

All: A “yes” to show up, even if our minds may be in other places at times.

One: A “yes” to believing enough in you, this community, and our own call to know this is where we need to be in this moment.

**All: A “yes” to bringing all that comes from and through our hearts to you.
O Heart-maker**

One: Come, let us bring ourselves to God’s table of plenty,

All: With our inherent worth and dignity to guide us. Amen.

***Hymn**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

#86, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer

Parker Chamberlin

Have mercy on us, O God of Healing. We call out to you for ourselves, our community, and our world that has so much suffering. At times we are discouraged to name what we need, by society or family expectations. So often we were simply never taught how to hold this part of us with tenderness and boundaries. But your Word invites us in to name what torments us and to receive your love and acceptance. Grant us your grace to take in the strength of your belonging. 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 | "Dear God, Embracing Humankind" | #502, pew hymnal |
| Scripture | Matthew 14:22-33 | Parker Chamberlin |
| Sermon | | Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi |
| 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 | Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi |
| Invitation to Generosity | Parker Chamberlin |



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

“O Kou Aloha No” - Queen Liliuokalani
(The Queen’s Prayer)

Scott Horton, organ

***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.**

***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Announcements

Kenny Schoelen, Christian Ed
Jeannie Hobson, Moderator
Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Closing Hymn**

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

#18, pew hymnal

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

“Fugue in F” - J.S. Bach

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour



15th Annual Keyboard Chamber Concert

September 10, 2023 - 3:00 p.m.

Join Us For An Afternoon of Music

- featuring -

**Gina Fazio, Matthew Horton, Jane Davis Maldonado,
Robert Maldonado, and Alan Rea piano; & Scott Horton, pipe organ**

*- performing masterworks for piano duet, two pianos, and solo organ from -
Bach, Beethoven, Moscheles, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, and Kulenty*

First Congregational Church of Fresno

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. (South of Clinton)

This is a free concert. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the Casavant Pipe Organ



Aloha Ohana

So far away and so close
To touch your face and ease your grief
Stricken faces, streaked with tears and
smoke
Filled air chokes and buries the unknown but
not forgotten
Faces haunt and carry you day after day
after day
Light brings no relief
Is miles and miles before you sleep
Comes in fits and starts
The tears welling up.

We see you ohana, our family
Is in our prayers and we grieve
Ohana and say aloha as a blessing of peace
Be with you always
As the hours turn to days and months and
forever
You are ohana, our family and we stand with
you.
Aloha.

K. Lindsey



JOIN OUR ECUMENICAL COHORT

*Do you want to unite with other progressive
Christians to make Fresno County more equitable?*

*Are you interested in learning about the issues
affecting our region directly from those who are
already doing justice work in the community?*

Sign up to join our Ecumenical Cohort and develop
practices that frame our faith around justice work.

6-Month Cohort Schedule

The second Monday of each month at 6:00pm

* LOCATION TBD *

- September 11, 2023 @6:00pm
- October 9, 2023 @6:00pm
- November 13, 2023 @6:00pm
- December 11, 2023 @6:00pm
- January 8, 2024 @6:00pm
- February 12, 2024 @6:00pm



Scan to visit the
Woven Coalition
website.

Scan to join
the Ecumenical
Cohort



wovencoalition.org | Fresno, CA

This Week at Big Red

Monday, August 21

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, August 22

Wednesday, August 23

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 4:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 6:00pm: Handbell Rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday, August 24

Friday, August 25

- ♦ 10:00am - BRC Pantry - Saturday food distribution prep
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 26

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Pantry "Free Food Saturday" - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 27

- ♦ 9:00am: Root and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Madeleine Guekguezian, 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 are on sale now, following Worship Service, in the Fellowship Hall, during Coffee Hour and in the Church office from 9:30am to 3:30pm Monday thru Friday.

Featuring the musical stylings of Joyce Brewer, vocals, Davis Aus, piano with accompanying musicians on bass and drums.

There will be a variety of appetizers, a cash bar and a silent auction.

Tickets are \$35 per person or reserve a table of 8 for \$250

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Guest in the Pulpit

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: Parker Chamberlin

Ushers: Mike Gostanian and Teresa Fuentes

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Pat Morales, Paula Roberts and
Pete Espinoza

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.

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Ps. 5:3; 59:16–17

Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1828
Transl. Edward Caswall, 1854; alt.

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,
2 New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say,
3 Dis - cor - dant hu - man - kind, in this your con - cord find,
4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let sin and e - vil fear,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song,

one pur - pose I de - clare: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
when this sweet chant they hear: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
through all the a - ges long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

This anonymous German Catholic hymn was translated to English by Edward Caswall, an Anglican—and later, Roman Catholic—priest. Among the scripture references is Psalm 5:3, “O God, in the morning you hear my voice. . . .”

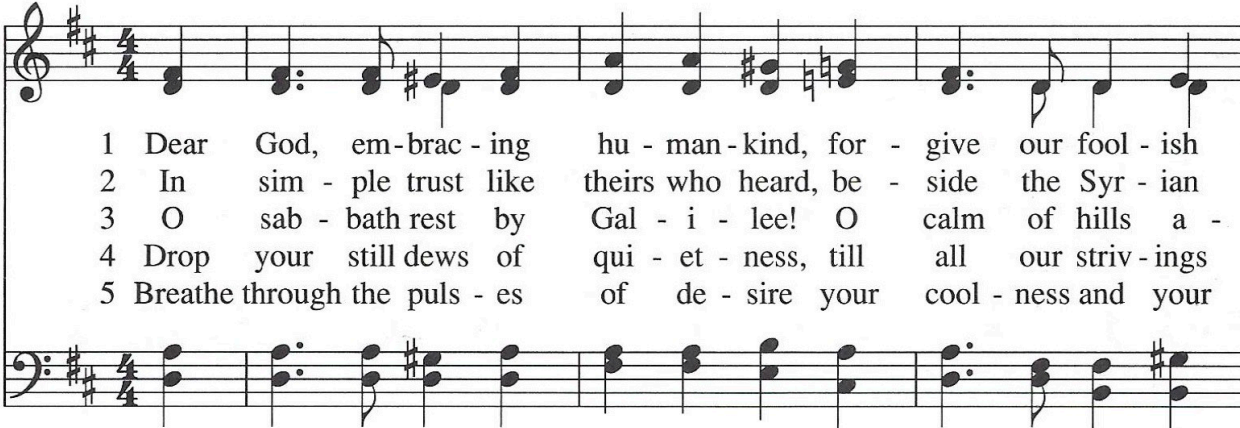
Tune: LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.6.6.6.
Joseph Barnby, 1868

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

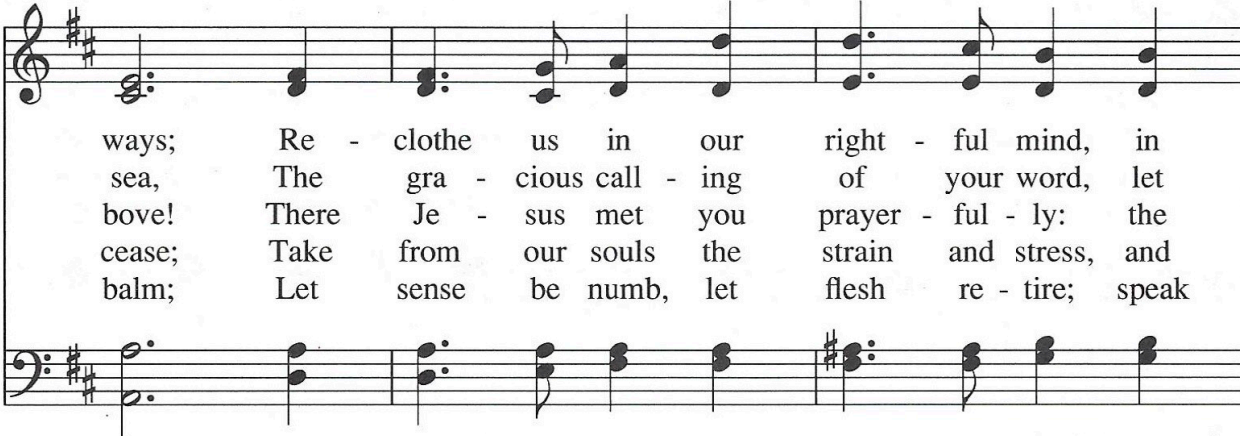
502

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

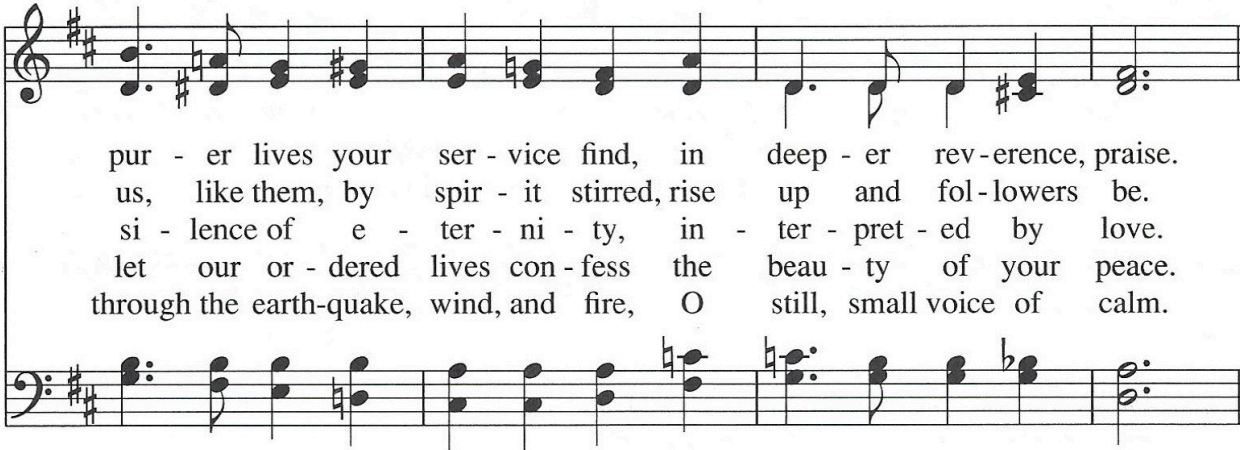
Mark 1:16–20; Matt. 14:22–23; 1 Kings 19:11–12



1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
 bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.
 through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

In his poem "The Brewing of Soma," New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6.
 Frederick C. Maker, 1887
 Alternate tune: REPTON
 (repeating last phrase)

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

*Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2**William Williams, 1745**St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.**St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.*

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power-ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

*John Hughes, 1907**Alternate setting: ZION*