

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023*



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

*Kymberly Lindsey
Guest Speaker*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023

Our Gathering

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

- Prelude** Scott Horton, organ
- Welcome** Kymberly Lindsey, Guest Speaker
- *Call to Worship** (Inspired by Psalm 103) Wade Hobson, liturgist

One: Bless the Holy One with our whole selves. Praise the Maker of our being!

All: *Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.*

One: The Sovereign One endows us with many gifts and equips us to do good work.

All: *Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.*

One: Holy Love entered the world without condemnation but with grace and forgiveness, mercy and compassion, redemption and restoration.

All: *Hallelujah! We give thanks for the mighty deeds and the good works of our God!*

- *Hymn** "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" #12, pew hymnal

- Opening Prayer** Wade Hobson

God who calls, it is you who gathers us together and forms us as a community. It is you who makes us uniquely individual and who designs us for companionship. Let us journey together this day in your presence reminded of our interdependence with one another. May we see your glory and be inspired to demonstrate your goodness and care through our lives. Amen.

- Choral Anthem** "Be Still My Soul" - J. Sibelius/C. Courtney Chancel Choir

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.**

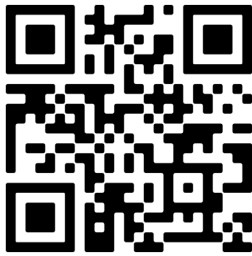
*Hymn	"God Speak to Me, That I May Speak"	#531, pew hymnal
Scripture	1 Samuel 3:1-10, 16:7; Colossians 1:29	Wade Hobson
Message	"Live It, Love It, Work It!"	Kymberly Lindsey
Song of Praise	"If You Believe" - K. Lindsey	Kymberly Lindsey

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	Kymberly Lindsey
Invitation to Generosity	Wade Hobson



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

"Sweet Hour of Prayer" - arr. Harris

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**

Kymberly Lindsey

***Closing Hymn**

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

#307, pew hymnal

***Benediction**

Kymberly Lindsey

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 A Minor - J.S. Bach

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to remain seated during the Postlude

Please join us for a light refreshment in the Fellowship Hall, following the Postlude

Next Sunday, Sept 24th



24
Sept
2023

3rd Annual
JAZZ
on Van Ness
From 4 pm to 7pm

Appetizers ~ Desserts ~ Refreshments ~ Cash Bar ~ Silent Auction

Tickets \$35 per person
Reserve a table of 8 for \$250



Live Music by:
Joyce Brewer, Vocals
David Aus, Piano
with accompanying
musicians on Bass
and Drums

Located at:
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.
Fresno, CA

Tickets via the Church
Office
559-227-8489

This Week at Big Red

Monday, Sept 18

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, Sept 19

Wednesday, Sept 20

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

Thursday, Sept 21

Friday, Sept 22

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday, Sept 23

Sunday, Sept 24

- ♦ 9:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Hank Delcore, Guest Speaker Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 4:00pm: Jazz on Van Ness - Fellowship Hall



Save the Date:

September 24, 2023 - JAZZ ON VAN NESS

Sound System Upgrade update -

We have reached our minimal benchmark of \$15,000 and are ready to proceed with the next phase of the project. Please keep the funds flowing. Projects updates will be forthcoming.

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Guest in the Pulpit

Kymberly Lindsey

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: Wade Hobson

Ushers: Cliff Dodd

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: BRC Food Pantry Committee

Acolytes: McKenna & Selena

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.

Descant

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye;
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

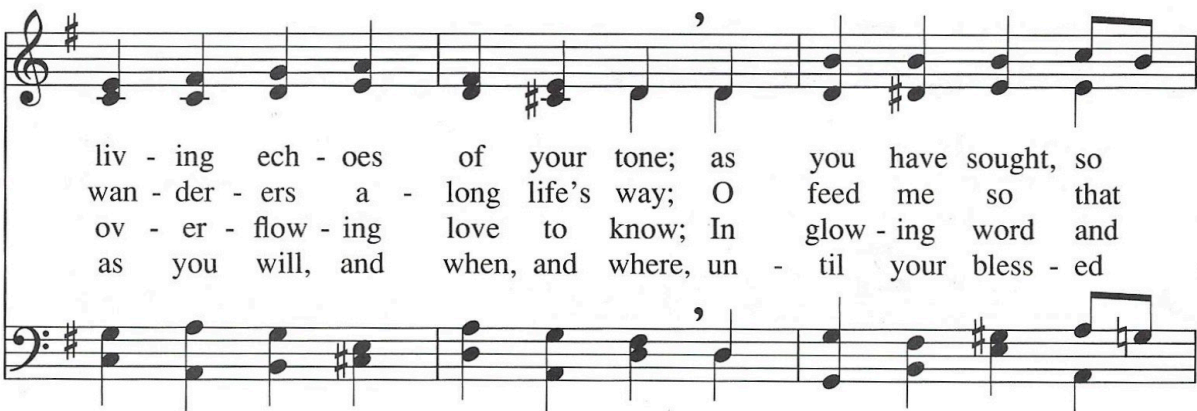
Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres-ent there.

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.


1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just



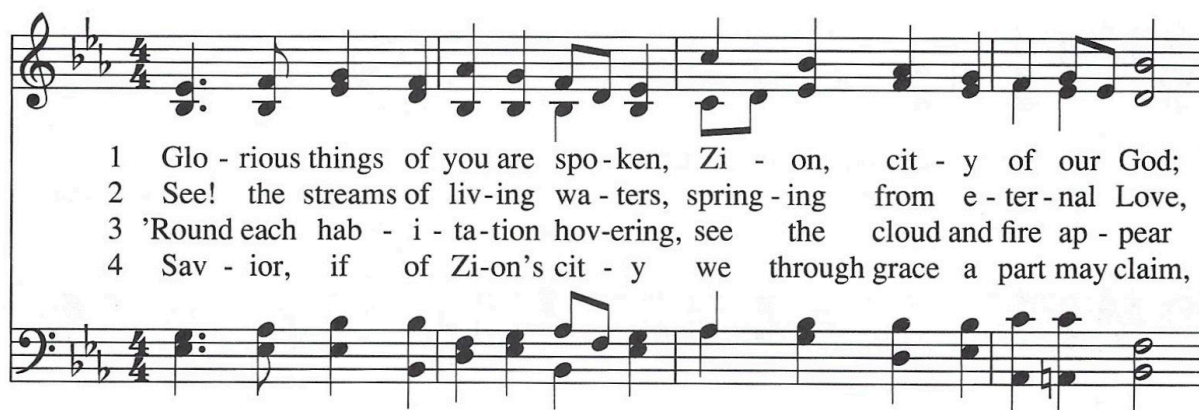
liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed



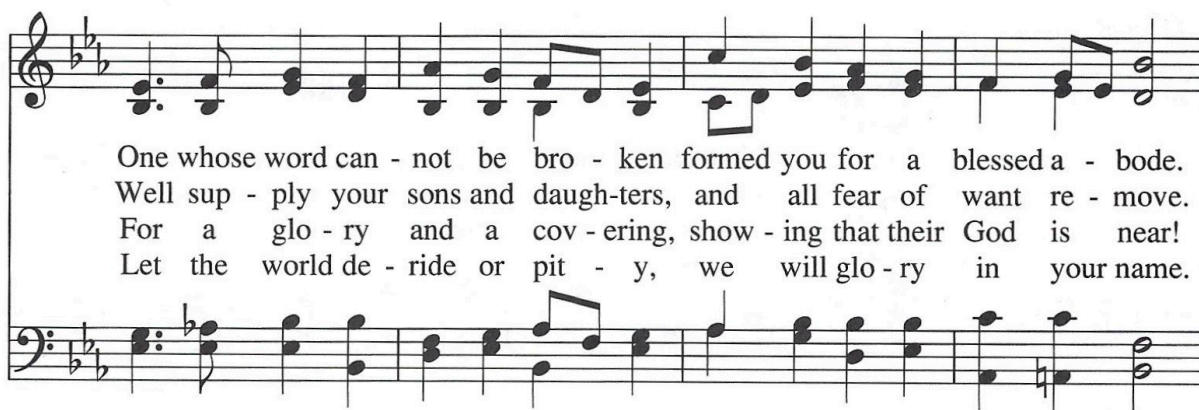
let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

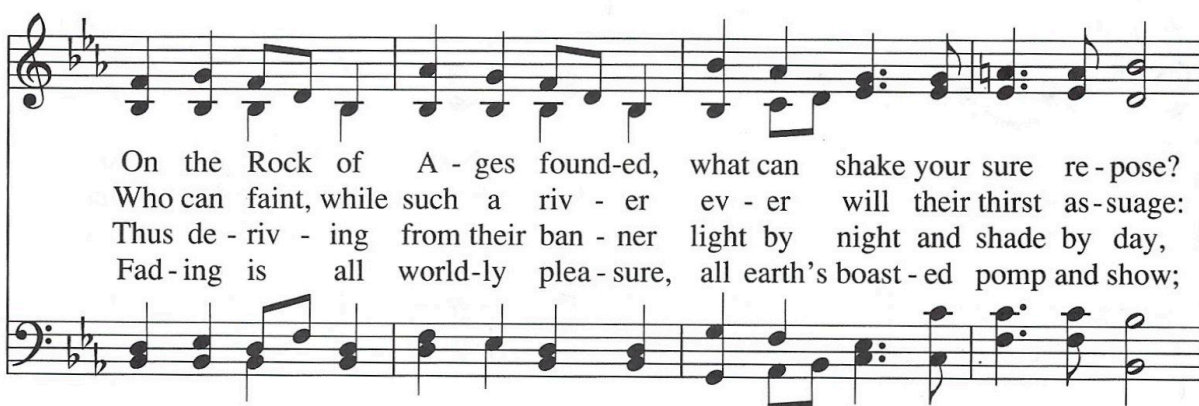
*Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
 Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872*



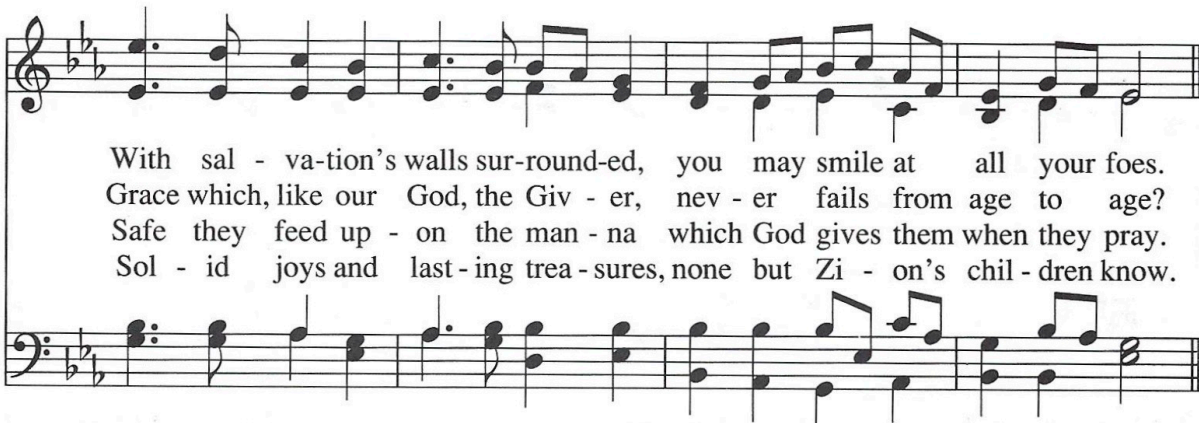
1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;
 2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal Love,
 3 'Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 4 Sav - ior, if of Zi - on's cit - y we through grace a part may claim,



One whose word can - not be bro - ken formed you for a blessed a - bode.
 Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.
 For a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that their God is near!
 Let the world de - ride or pit - y, we will glo - ry in your name.



On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake your sure re - pose?
 Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage:
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Fad - ing is all world - ly plea - sure, all earth's boast - ed pomp and show;



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, you may smile at all your foes.
 Grace which, like our God, the Giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age?
 Safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
 Sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sures, none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Filled with Old Testament scriptural allusions, this was one of few hymns of praise included among the many subjective, sometimes brooding, hymns in Newton and Cowper's Olney Hymns. It has enjoyed great popularity in many English-speaking countries.

Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7.D.

Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

Alternate tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH