

# *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## *September 24, 2023*



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

*Hank Delcore  
Guest Speaker*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 2023

## Our Gathering

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

**Prelude** Scott Horton, organ

**Welcome** Hank Delcore, Guest Speaker

**\*Call to Worship** (Inspired by Psalm 145:1-8) Char Lund, liturgist

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**All: *Great is our God and greatly to be praised.***

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**All: *This generation will tell the next generation so they may tell the next generation of the Holy One's magnificent and mighty acts.***

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**All: *We declare the abundant goodness, gracious righteousness, and holy love of our God. Praise the Holy One!***

**\*Hymn** "Sing Praise to God" #22, pew hymnal

**Opening Prayer** Char Lund

***Mighty God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name. Amen.***

**Choral Anthem** "O Sing to the Lord a New Song" - L. Larson 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.

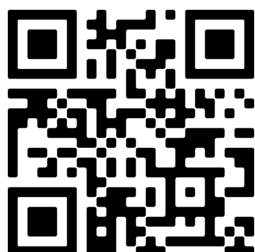
*Hymn	"I Love to Tell the Story"	#522, pew hymnal
Scripture	John 11:1-7, 32-44	Char Lund
Message	"Tragedy and Hope"	Hank Delcore

## 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	Hank Delcore
Invitation to Generosity	Char Lund



*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 Love to Tell the Story" - arr. Fischer 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** Hank Delcore

**Announcements** Jeannie Hobson, Moderator

**\*Closing Hymn** "My Faith It Is an Oaken Staff" #418, pew hymnal

**\*Benediction** Hank Delcore

**\*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** "Psalm XX" - G. Young 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**



# Tonight, 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 25

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Tuesday, Sept 26

## Wednesday, Sept 27

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

## Thursday, Sept 28

## Friday, Sept 29

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Pantry - Food prep - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Saturday, Sept 30

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

## Sunday, October 1

- ♦ 9:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields, Guest Pastor  
Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall



*Save the date: Bachtober Concert October 15th*

## ***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**

Hank Delcore

## **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: Char Lund

Ushers: Mike Gostanian

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Church Life

Acolytes: Avery and Hudson

## **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.

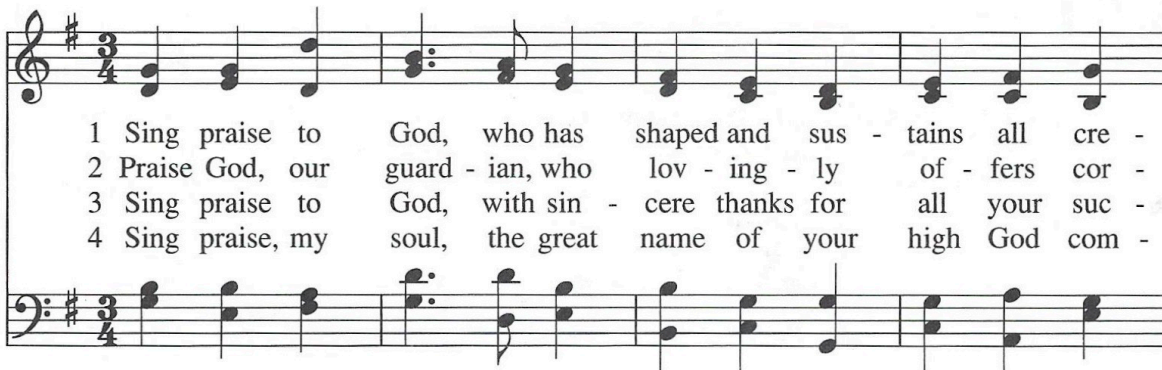


## Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

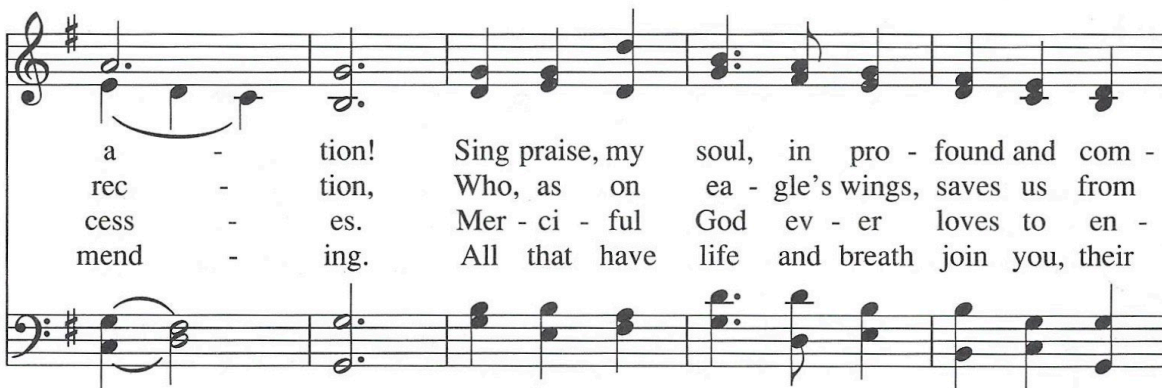
Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680

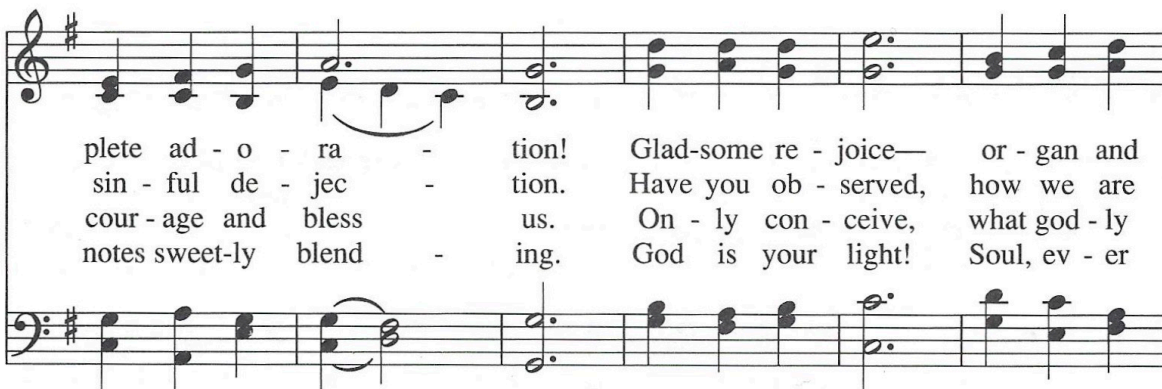
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



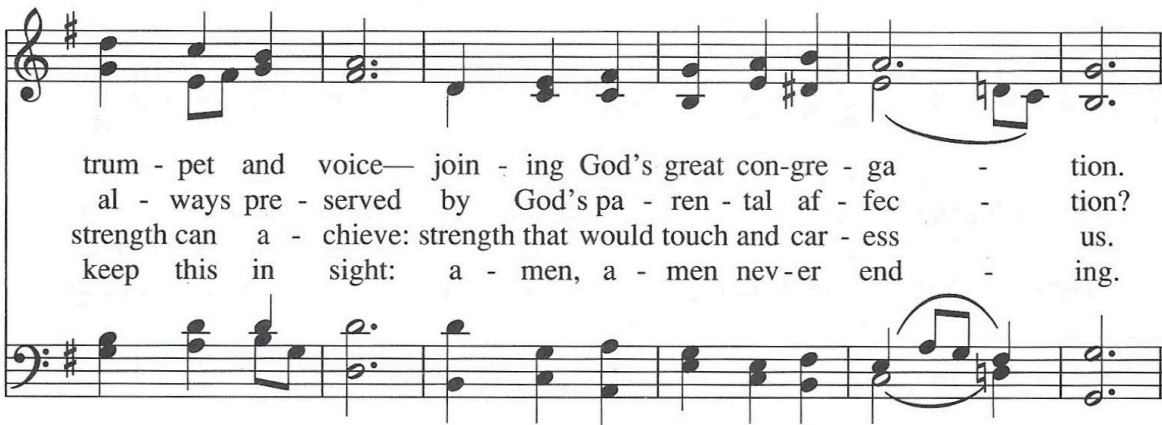
1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -  
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -  
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -  
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -



a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -  
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from  
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -  
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their



plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - jice— or - gan and  
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are  
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly  
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er



trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.  
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?  
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.  
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Düsseldorf, Germany. This was the most familiar of his fifty-six hymn texts, which were published along with many of his original tunes in 1680, the year of his death.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.  
 Erneuernten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665  
 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat  
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.  
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*


I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.


# My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

418


Thomas T. Lynch, 1855; alt.



1 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, the trav-eler's well-loved aid;  
 2 My guide is Je - sus Christ whose steps, when trav-el - ers have trod,  
 3 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, O let me on it lean.



My faith, it is a song of trust, sus - tains me un - dis - mayed.  
 Wheth - er be - neath was flint - y rock or yield-ing grass-y sod,  
 My faith pro - vides the ground of hope, sup - ports a pur - pose keen.



I'll trav-el on and still be stirred by si - lent thought or so - cial  
 They car - ried on, their joy un-spent; through pain and trial they on - ward  
 Your Spir - it, God, up - on me send, that I may be what you in -



word; By all my per - ils un - de - terred, a pil - grim un - a - fraid.  
 went, Un - stayed by plea - sure, still they bent their zeal - ous course to God.  
 tend. With pa - tient cour - age, we'll con - tend as ra - diant saints se - rene.

*A gifted Congregational minister in London, Thomas Toke Lynch was the subject of controversy within the churches upon the publication of his hymn collection, The Rivulet, which received poor reviews. This hymn was labeled Lynch's "best" when it appeared in Congregational Praise (1951).*

Tune: THE STAFF OF FAITH 8.6.8.6.8.8.8.6.  
 Swiss folk melody  
 Fellowship Hymn Book, 1910