

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 10, 2023*



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

*Christopher Williams  
Guest Speaker*

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 10, 2023

## Our Gathering

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

**Prelude** "Prelude on HYFRYDOL" - arr. D. Hanna Handbells  
"O Worship the King" - arr. B. Ingram

**Welcome** Christopher Williams, Member in Discernment

**\*Call to Worship** Alison Chamberlin, liturgist

One: Let our praise today be made new.

**All: *May we sing a new song, pray a new prayer, dance a new dance, and speak  
And hear a new word.***

One: Let the faithful delight in the Holy One's marvelous acts.

**All: *From the seats in the sanctuary to the couches in our homes.***

One: Let us glorify God with our voices, the work of our lives, and the joy of our souls.

**All: *Glory to God! Praise the Holy One!***

**\*Hymn** "All are Welcome" - M. Haugen

**Opening Prayer** Alison Chamberlin

***God who journeys with us, we give thanks to be gathered in your presence. May we  
acknowledge you in the brightness of the day and in the stillness of the night. Provide  
us a vision of your reign on earth and in our lives. Make us your witnesses to a world in  
need of hope and peace. Infuse us with your love, and may this time gathered as your  
people transform us to reflect your goodness in the world. Amen.***

**Choral Anthem** "A New Song" - C. Courtney Chancel Choir &  
Nancy Mack, flute

**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

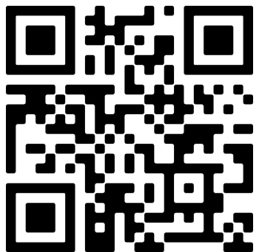
Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

*Hymn	"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"	#397, pew hymnal
Scripture	Ezekiel 33:7-11; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20	Alison Chamberlin
Message		Christopher Williams
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	Christopher Williams
Invitation to Generosity	Alison 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** "Adagio" from Sonata 1- F. Mendelssohn 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** Christopher Williams

**\*Closing Hymn** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #43, pew hymnal

**Meeting of the Congregation** Jeannie Hobson, moderator

Call to Order - Establishment of a Quorum  
Item: Change in Church By-laws  
Motion  
Close of Meeting

**\*Benediction** Christopher Williams

***May we go from this gathering  
Strengthened in love,  
Encouraged by hope,  
Pursuing and speaking God's peace,  
And being good news in the world.***

**\*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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(No Postlude this Week)

**Please Join Us in a Welcome Back Celebration in the Fellowship Hall.**

***TODAY AT 3PM***



# **15<sup>th</sup> 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**





# *Swim Party and potluck*

**Sunday September 17th at 2pm**

**Hamburgers!**

**The Shore Residence  
8581 Chickadee Ln  
Clovis 559 299 6846**

**Hot Dogs!**

**Lifeguard will be on  
duty**

**Please provide:  
towels  
sunscreen  
drinks  
sides  
chips  
dessert**





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 11

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Tuesday, Sept 12

## Wednesday, Sept 13

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

## Thursday, Sept 14

## Friday, Sept 15

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Saturday, Sept 16

## Sunday, Sept 17

- ♦ 9:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Kymberly Lindsey, Guest Speaker Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 2:00pm: Christian Ed Swim Party



**Save the Date:**

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

## ***TODAY AT 11am***

***Please join Kenny Schoelen for a brief Christian Ed meeting for anyone interested in being a Sunday School teacher or for those currently volunteering as Sunday School teachers. The meeting will be held in room 5 during Coffee Hour.***



## **First Congregational Church of Fresno**

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

### **Guest in the Pulpit**

Christopher Williams, Member in Discernment

### **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: Alison Chamberlin

Ushers: Harold Householder, Richard Van Wyhe

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Welcome Back Celebration

Acolytes: Faith & Olivia

### **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.

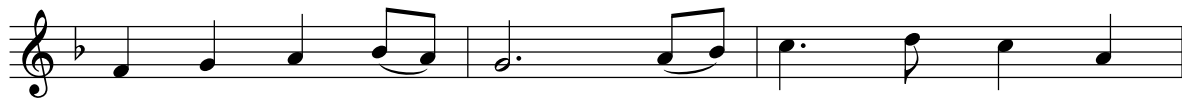
As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

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.

# All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And  
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And  
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In  
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -  
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and  
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren  
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on  
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,  
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -  
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -  
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice  
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've  
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,  
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness  
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,  
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger  
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the  
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as  
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we  
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us  
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this




love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel-come,  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 house pro-claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this place.

## Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers

Roger Powell, 1948; alt.




1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,  
 2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;  
 3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;





Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.  
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.  
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.




With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,  
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.  
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.

Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.  
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.  
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.




*This hymn was written for a Union Thanksgiving service in 1948 by the Rev. Roger Powell of Camillus, New York. It served as a rallying song for the first meeting of the National Council of Churches in 1952.*

*Tune: PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831*




## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27**Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.*



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;  
 4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum - ble dwell - ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom - ised rest;  
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver - more your tem - ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in you;



Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love im - part.  
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 You we would be al - ways bless - ing, love you as your an - gels love,  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound - ed arms out - stretched a - bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495