

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023



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

*Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
Designated-Term Pastoral Candidate*

Our Gathering

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

Prelude "Morning Has Broken" arr. D. Edwards Handbells
"Variations on the Doxology" arr. S. Tucker

Welcome Peter Wall
Chair of Search Committee

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 106) Randy Oftedal, liturgist

One: Let's thank the Lord, for the Lord is good.

All: God's love endures forever.

One: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare God's praise?

All: Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Our God is worthy of our Praise!

One: Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people that we may enjoy your blessings.

All: Let us worship our good God, who blesses us with infinite love and abundant grace. Amen!

***Hymn** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" #25, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer Randy Oftedal

Lord Jesus, we gather to worship you today with hearts full of joy and appreciation for the beauty of your diversity and extravagant welcome. We invite your Holy Spirit to this space to celebrate your goodness and presence in our gathering time together. Prepare our hearts to receive what you have for us today. Amen.

Choral Anthem "We Sing a Beginning" - Hommerding/Breedlove 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.*

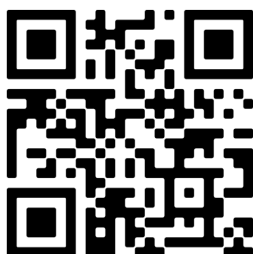
*Hymn	"Jesus Call Us, o'er the Tumult" (vvs.1, 3-5)	#172, pew hymnal
Scripture	Exodus 32:1-6	Randy Oftedal
Sermon	"Patience"	Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

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	Randy Oftedal



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

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” - J.S. Bach

Chancel 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.**

***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Closing Hymn**

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Announcements

Jeannie Hobson, Moderator

***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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Immediately following “Go Now in Peace,” a congregational meeting will be held to vote on the calling of the Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi as our Designated-Term Pastor.

TODAY!

First Congregational Church of Fresno

presents a

BACHTOBER CONCERT

Featuring Baroque Masterworks & the Organ Works of

Johann Sebastian Bach



Sunday, October 15, at 3:00 p.m.

Bachtober Festival Chamber Orchestra

led by John Morrice, violin

&

Scott Horton, organist

Admission Free - Freewill Offering to support the Casavant Pipe Organ

First Congregational Church of Fresno, U.C.C.

2131 North Van Ness Boulevard

Information: 227-8489

This Week at Big Red

Monday, October 16

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, October 17

- ♦ 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting - Parlor

Wednesday, October 19

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

Thursday, October 19

Friday, October 20

- ♦ 4:00pm: Spaghetti "Fun-raiser" - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday, October 21

Sunday, October 22

- ♦ 9:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Rev. Stephanie Doss, guest pastor - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

New!

In house pantry hours:

Monday & Wednesday:

9:30am to 3pm

Friday: 9:30am to 12:30pm

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Designated-Term Pastoral Candidate

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

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Randy Oftedal

Ushers: Harold Householder, Richard van Wyhe

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Acolytes: Makenna & Sarah

Coffee Hour: Church Life

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.

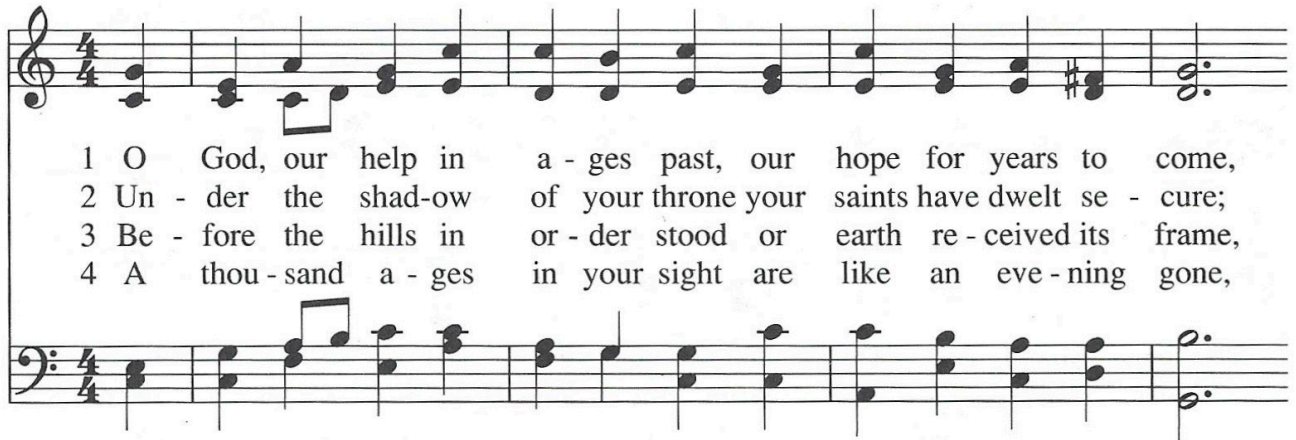
We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

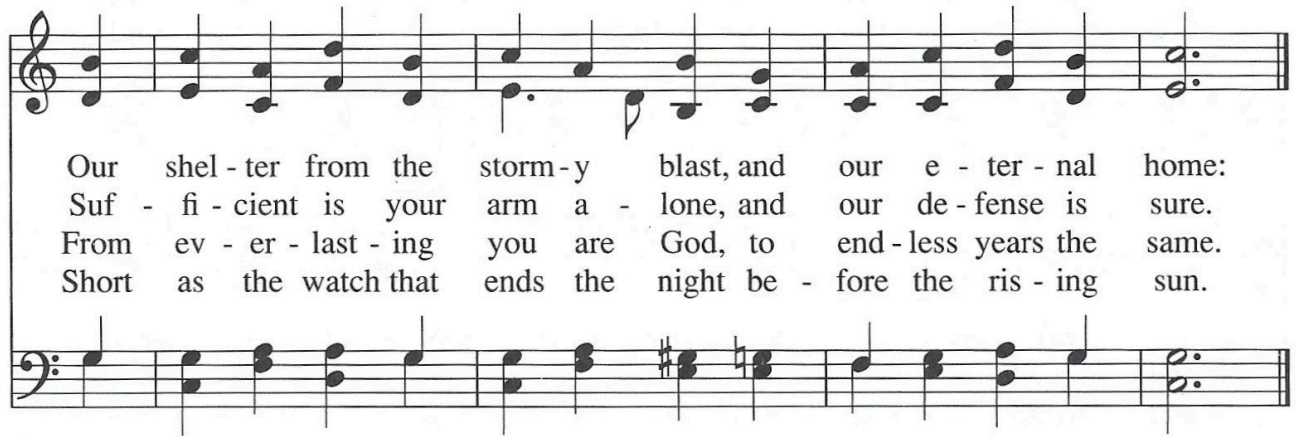
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Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pen-ing day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

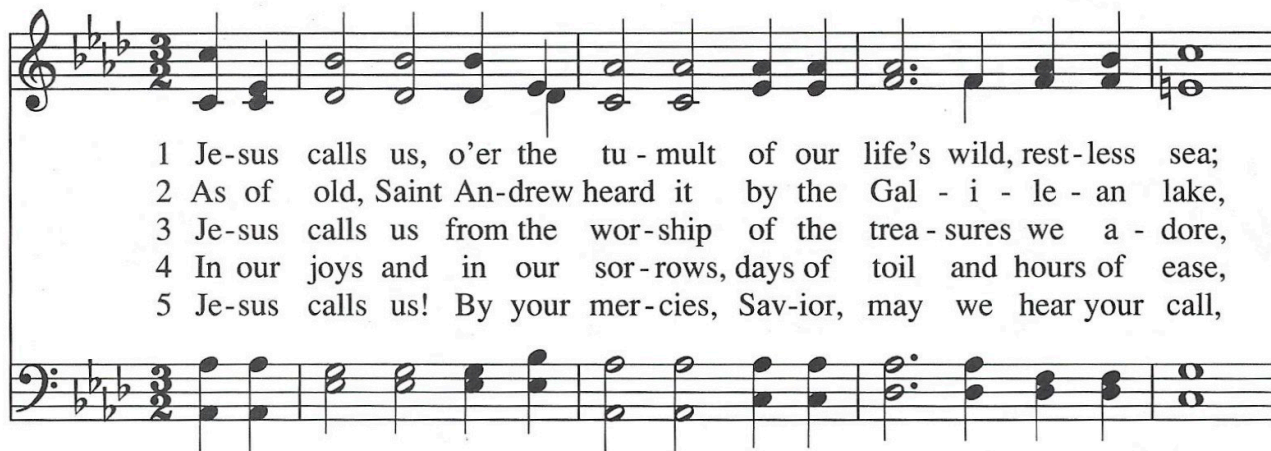
Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

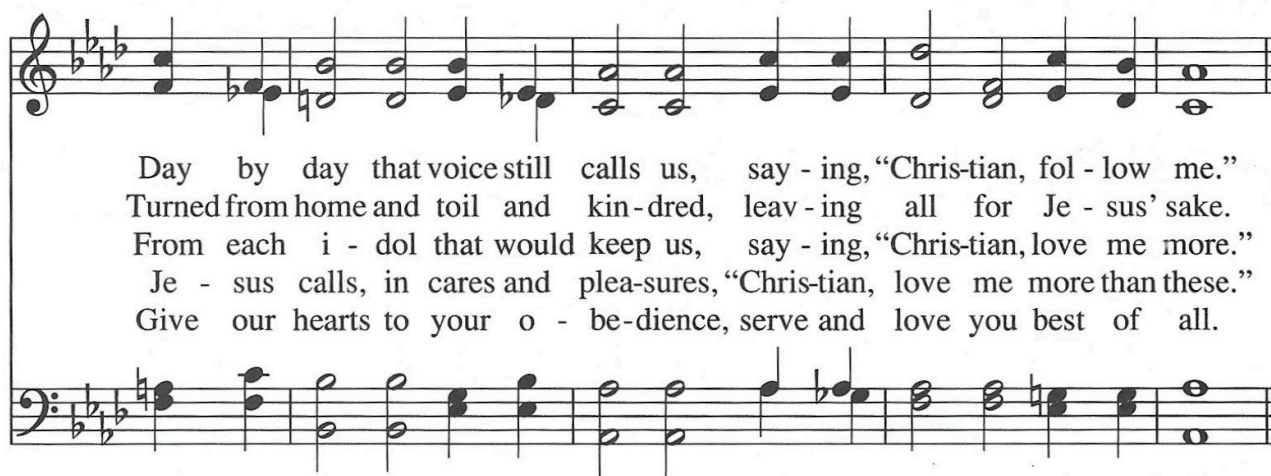
172

Cecil F. Alexander, 1852; alt.

Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; John 21:15



1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,
4 In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,



Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

Cecil Alexander, who in Ireland wrote sacred verse to teach children the meaning of the catechism and liturgy, designated this poem for St. Andrew's Day. Many years later Galilee was composed for this text by an English organist, William Jude.

Tune: GALILEE 8.7.8.7.
William H. Jude, 1887
Alternate setting: ST. ANDREW

All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
 2. O rush-ing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n a-
 3. O flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for your God to
 4. And all for-giv-en ten-der hearts, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take your

Harmony *Unison*

sing; Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O burn-ing sun with gold-en
 long, O praise God, Al-le-lu-ia! O ris-ing morn, in praise re-
 hear, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O blaz-ing fire who lights the
 part, sing prais-es, Al-le-lu-ia! You who long pain and sor-row

Refrain (Harmony)

beam, O sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam,
 joice, you lights of eve-ning find a voice, O praise God,
 night, pro-vid-ing warmth, en-hanc-ing sight,
 bear, praise God, who knows your ev-'ry care.

Unison

O praise God, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia!