

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023



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

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
Pastor

Our Gathering

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

Prelude "Nun Danket alle Gott" - Kaufmann Scott Horton, organ
"Now Thank We All Our God" - S. Karg-Elert

Welcome Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Call to Worship** (inspired by Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16) Dolores Torres, liturgist

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

We hear your Still Speaking voice. We come to you, Wisdom, seeking knowledge and understanding.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

We remember your marvelous acts and faithful instruction. We come to you, Wisdom, as you have been near to us!

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

We trust in your guidance and place our hope in you through feast and famine. We come to you, Wisdom, to worship and to serve.

***Hymn** "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In" #73, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer Dolores Torres

Wisdom, your presence illuminates our path. Shine your light into dim spaces so that we do not stray from your teaching. Help us discern who you are calling us to be at this moment in time. Give us urgency to be good news in the world and for our neighbors. Let your glory reign among us and your Spirit lead us into truth, justice, and love. For your name and in your name, we pray. Amen.

Choral Anthem "Praise the Lord" - G. Handel Chancel Choir

Time for Discovery [*children are invited to the chancel steps with the Pastor*]

**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.**

Gordon Light, ©1994 Common Cup Company
OneLicense.net License #A-711732

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	"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"	#369, pew hymnal
Scripture	Matthew 25:1-13	Dolores Torres

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Liturgist: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God within us, and for the Word of God amongst us.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

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.

1973, Hope, Publishing CO., All rights reserved.
OneLicense.net License #A-71173

Prayers of the Church

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Stewardship Moment

Pete Moe

Invitation to Generosity

Dolores Torres



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

"Sing to the Lord" - W.A. Mozart

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

Announcements

Jeannie Hobson, Moderator

***Closing Hymn**

“God, We Thank You for Our People ”

#376, 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.

1988, Harold Flammer Music. All rights reserved.
OneLicense.net License # A-711732

Postlude

“Now Thank We All Our God” - arr. A. Travis

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall



This Week at Big Red

Monday, November 13

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, November 14

- ♦ 6:00pm: Boundary Training - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 15

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 11am, 2pm & 4:30pm: "Get to Know Simon" - Parlor
- ♦ 6:00pm: Handbell rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday, November 16

- ♦ 6pm: "Get to Know Simon" - Parlor

Friday, November 17

- ♦ 9:30am: BRC Pantry food distribution prep

Saturday, November 18

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

Sunday, November 19

- ♦ 9:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Stewardship Sunday - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Thanksgiving Luncheon

Upcoming Dates to remember

- * **BRC Pantry "Free Food Saturday" - Nov 18**
- * **Thanksgiving Luncheon - Nov 19**
- * **Church Council Meeting - Nov 21**
- * **First Sunday of Advent -**
- * **Family Advent Event - Dec 3**

Grapevine submissions must be received no later than end of day November 15 for publication in the December edition.

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Pastor

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
Simon@bigredchurch.org

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey
Office@bigredchurch.org

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Technicians

Karisa Garza
Brad Jenkins

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Dolores Torres

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Mike Gostanian, Richard VanWyhe

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Acolytes: Addison and Avery

Coffee Hour:

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.

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.
 2 O - pen your-self to the song. O - pen your-self to the song.
 3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.
 4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.
 5 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joice, and come in.

This song, based on Psalm 100, became popular in the 1970s in the United States. It works equally well with organ, piano, or guitar accompaniment.

Tune: ENTER, REJOICE 7.7.8.7.
 Louise Ruspini
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Matt. 25:1-13; Gal. 6:9

African-American spiritual

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn-ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn-
 2 It's our faith makes us hap-py, it's our faith makes us hap-
 3 We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-
 4 Ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, ev-ery round goes high-er, high-

-ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn-ing, for this work's al-most done.
 -py, it's our faith makes us hap-py, for this work's al-most done.
 -der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, for this work's al-most done.
 -er ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, for this work's al-most done.

Last time, end

Refrain

Sis-ters, don't grow wear-y, broth-ers, don't grow

wear-y, chil-dren, don't grow wear-y, for this work's al-most done.

By tradition, a leader may call out substitute words for the refrain, such as "Christians don't grow weary, Christians don't grow weary, . . ." etc., or "people," "preacher," or any others that may be appropriate.

This spiritual is possibly one of the code songs in which to keep one's lamp "trimmed and burning" could have meant keeping a lookout for a conductor of the underground railroad, such as Harriet Tubman. It is often sung at church dedication services.

Tune: KEEP YOUR LAMPS 7.7.7.6.6.6.6.6
 African-American spiritual
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49; 1 Esd. 5:56-7:15

Purd E. Deitz, 1935; alt.

1 We would be build - ing; tem-ples still un - done o'er crum-pling
 2 Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock we set the
 3 O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands ne'er fal - ter

walls their cross-es scarce-ly lift, wait - ing till love can
 dream that hard-ens in - to deed, ribbed with fine steel, both
 when the dream is in our hearts, when to our ears there

raise the bro - ken stone, and hearts cre - a - tive
 time and change to mock, the un-fail - ing pur - pose
 come di - vine com - mands and all the pride of

bridge the hu - man rift. We would be build - ing,
 of our no - blest creed. Teach us to build; O
 sin - ful will de - parts. We build with you; O

Ar - chi-tect Di - vine, re-veal the shape of life in your de - sign.
 Mak-er, lend us sight to see the tow - ers gleam-ing in the light.
 grant en-dur-ing worth un-til your prom-ised realm shall come on earth.