

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2024



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

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
Pastor

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2024

Our Gathering

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

Prelude

Organ Music of Gordon Young
"Oh, How Joyfully" - J. Behnke

Scott Horton, organ
Handbells

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Call to Worship** (Inspired by Psalm 62)

Robbyn Mosley, Liturgist

Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.

Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

You are our hope. We place our trust in you.

Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.

***Hymn**

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

#18, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer

Robbyn Mosley

Holy One, we can be so impatient. We have become used to instant gratification and have forgotten the holiness of the waiting. Help us to rest in your timing. Encourage us to persevere through struggles and storms. Reveal the unfolding of your kingdom before our eyes and empower us to be agents of transformation in the world as you infuse us with new life. Amen.

Reception of New Members (please see insert)

Special Music

“Ring Alleluia” - Howard Starks

Handbells

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
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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** "You Have Come down to the Lakeshore" #173, pew hymnal

Scripture Mark 1:14-20 Robbyn Mosley

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

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.*

Sermon Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Sung Invitation 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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Invitation to Generosity

Robbyn Mosley



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

"See the Love of God" - P. Houlihan

Chancel Choir
Nancy Mack, flute

***Doxology and Dedication**

***We give You but Your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Yours alone, we give it gratefully. Amen.***

Announcement

***Hymn**

"Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

#172, pew hymnal

***Benediction**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Blessing Song** (*We turn toward center aisle so to bless one another*)

**Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in peace, 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.**

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude

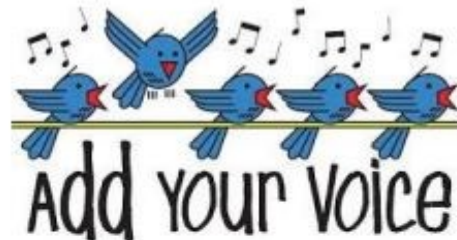
"Toccata" - G. Young

Scott Horton, organ

* * * * *

Looking for a New Year's Resolution?
Want to be active in Church?
Be around fun and energetic people?
Love to sing?

You Should Join Our Chancel Choir!!!



We practice on Wednesday evenings and sing in worship most Sundays throughout the program year. It might well be the funnest resolution you make!

Please inquire with Scott Horton, Music Director, at shtulare@gmail.com, or at church on Sunday, to see how you can get involved.

TUESDAY

TODAY in Room 5

Let's Eat Out!

DINE IN FUNDRAISER BY THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY

Dine in at The Old Spaghetti Factory to help support
**First Congregational Church Big Red Food
Pantry.**

When you dine in: January 23rd 2024

Show this flyer to your server and we will donate 15% of your total purchase (pre-tax) to help support The Big Red Food Pantry.

Share this flyer and Let's Eat Out for a good cause!
Fundraiser only available when you dine in at The Old Spaghetti Factory.
Fundraiser available only at our **Fresno** location.

We're sorry, we cannot accept to-go orders for this fundraiser.



BIG RED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VISION CASTING

ALL KIDS AND PARENTS ARE INVITED TO
SHARE YOUR VISION FOR A VIBRANT BIG
RED KID'S MINISTRY. JOIN US AFTER
CHURCH FOR LUNCH AND AN
OPPORTUNITY TO REIMAGINE WHAT THE
PERFECT SPACE AND PROGRAM LOOKS
LIKE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

Please RSVP and take the pre-survey no later than January 17th.

This Week at Big Red

Monday, January 22

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, January 23

- ♦ 11:30am to 9:00pm: BRC Pantry Fundraiser at Old Spaghetti Factory

Wednesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 25

Friday, January 26

Saturday, January 27

Sunday, January 28

- ♦ 9:00am: Exploration Hour - Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Congregational Annual Meeting - Sanctuary

Upcoming Dates to remember

- * “Let’s Eat Out” BRC Pantry Fundraiser at Old Spaghetti Factory - Jan 23
- * Annual Meeting - Jan 28, following worship service

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Pastor

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
simon@bigredchurch.org

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: Robbyn Mosley

Ushers: Harold Householder and Richard VanWyhe

Acolytes: Addison and Hudson

Technician: Brad Jenkins

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.

Moderator: Siblings in Christ, it is the Spirit of God that draws us to the church and we, the church body, welcome that Spirit by welcoming one another. Hear the good news: these people have found nurture and support in our midst and seek covenantal relationship with us. In a covenantal relationship, we share a set of promises with God and with one another, and we respond to the gracious work of God by sharing in God's action and mission in the world. By welcoming them, we recognize that each one brings us something we need, in order to be all that God intends. This mutual ministry is what we celebrate today.

Pastor: Dear Friends, I introduce to you the people of First Congregational Church, Fresno UCC. Is it your wish to make this community of faith, your church family, and the people with whom you will share your journey of faith? Is this the place and are these the people with whom you will seek to make sense of the issues of your life; your dreams, your faith, who you are, what you are to do, who God calls you to be? Is it your wish to make this the place where you continue your journey into greater health and wholeness; where you listen to the story of God's salvation and the Good News of Jesus Christ, allowing Jesus to be an example and teacher to you, where you are called to a life of ministry and justice; and where you are fed at the table of new life?

New Members: Yes, it is my wish.

Honoring the Spirit revealed in the paradoxical, will you live the questions of our faith, open to the continuing revelation of our still speaking God?

New Members: I promise, with the help of God.

Claiming God's grace abundant in our common life, will you covenant together to cherish inquiry, embrace diversity, and honor vulnerability?

New Members: I promise, with the help of God.

Will you who are members of this faith community who are witnessing these promises, share the joys and sorrows, and do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ:

Congregation: We will, with the help of God.

Moderator: Will you welcome Steven and Michael into this family of First Congregational, embrace their gifts, their needs, and their dreams? Will you recognize that their presence and participation will change the shape of the body and help it grow in new ways? Will you support them in their journeys, and assist them in their ministries?

Congregation: We will, with the help of God.

Beloved church, let us join together in spirit and pray the covenant of our ancestors in faith back to the Salem Covenant of 1629:

ALL:

“We covenant with Christ and one with another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of the Spirit to walk together in all God's ways, according as God is pleased to be revealed to us in the word and experience of truth.”

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

*Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2**William Williams, 1745**St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.**St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.*

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

*John Hughes, 1907**Alternate setting: ZION*

Tú has venido a la orilla

(You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979; alt.

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1989; alt.

D A7 D

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go: en mi
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

G A7

ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo
 bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly
 trea - sure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my

D A7 D D7

Estrillo (Refrain)

quie - res que yo te si - ga. Je -
 re - des y mi tra - ba - jo.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low. O
 fish - nets and will for work - ing.

G D

sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;
 Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;

One of the most popular hymns to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious songs in Spain, this text has been translated into nearly eighty languages. The Spanish composer-author was a parish priest known for his work among youth.

Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

8.10.10. with refrain

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979

Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

A7 D

son - ri - en - do, has di - cho mi nom - bre;
kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.

D7 G F#m

en la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;
On the sand I have a - ban - doned my small boat;

B7 Em A7 D

jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
now with you I will seek oth - er seas.

3. Tú ne-ce-si-tas mis ma-nos,
mi can-san-cio que a o-tros des-can-se,
a-mor que quie-ra se-guir a-man-do.
Estrillo

4. Tú, Pes-ca-dor de o-tros ma-res,
an-sia e-ter-na de al-mas que es-pe-ran.
A-mi-go bue-no, que a-sí me lla-mas.
Estrillo

3. You need my hands, my ex-haus-tion,
work-ing love for the rest of the
wea-ry—
A love that's will-ing to go on lov-ing.
Refrain


4. You who have fished oth-er wa-ters;
you, the long-ing of souls that are
yearn-ing:
As lov-ing Friend, you have come
to call me.
Refrain

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

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