

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

And Communion

February 4, 2024



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 Hymn-Sing

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Call to Worship** (from Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c and Isaiah 40: 21-31) Char Lund, Liturgist

To whom can we compare you, O Holy One?
We lift up our eyes, We wait upon the Eternal God.
How good it is to sing praises to our God.
A song of praise is fitting!
Let us worship God together.

***Hymn**

“Sing Praise to God”

#22, pew hymnal

Prayer of Confession Char Lund, liturgist

God invites us to come to worship as our whole selves: God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:
Holy One, we hope in your steadfast love, bringing our broken hearts and our wounded spirits. Make us aware of the hearts we break, the spirits we wound, of those we treat as outcasts, of those we tread down. Renew us in your grace, renew us in your strength. Amen.

Words of Grace

Have you not known? Have you not heard? God does not grow weary with us, but loves, forgives, and renews us. Go with renewed strength in your walk of faith.
Alleluia! Amen!

Choral Anthem

“Come Share the Lord” - Leech/arr. Christopher

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.***

Holy Communion

*Hymn of Preparation	"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"	#342, pew hymnal
-----------------------------	---	-------------------------

Invitation to the Table

The Sharing

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn	"Dear God, Embracing Humankind"	#502, pew hymnal
--------------	--	-------------------------

Scripture	Mark 1:29-39	Char Lund, liturgist
------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

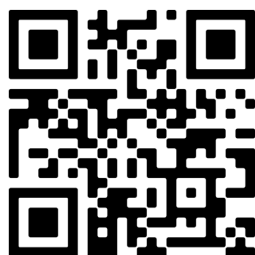
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the Church

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Invitation to Generosity

Pauline Phillips



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

"Sweet Hour of Prayer" - arr. Harris

Scott Horton, organ

***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.*

***Closing Hymn**

"Called As Partners in Christ's Service"

#495, 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

"Toccata in Seven" - J. Rutter

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude



Galloway Memorial Organ Evensong

Scott Horton

organist

Sunday, March 3, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Admission Free - Freewill Offering to Benefit
the Casavant Organ Fund

First Congregational Church of Fresno
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.
(559) 227-8489

New Member Brunch

Sunday, February 25, 2024

11:15am/in the Parlor

Come and meet other prospective new members and current congregation members. Chat with Pastor Simon and get to know what First Congregational Church is about. Orientation materials will be provided.

***If you are interested, please contact
Kymberly Lindsey in the office
559-227-8489***

This Week at Big Red

Monday, February 5

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, February 6

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

Friday, February 9

Saturday, February 10

Sunday, February 11

- ♦ 9:00am: Exploration Hour - Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Dates to remember

- * Ministry of Worship Meeting - February 13
- * Ash Wednesday Joint Worship w/Amazing Grace Ministries and Rising Star Baptist Church - February 14
- * Ministry of Resources Meeting - February 15
- * Church Council Meeting - February 18
- * New Member Brunch - February 25

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: Pauline Philips

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Mike Gostanian and Teresa Fuentes

Acolytes: Faith and Olivia

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.

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.

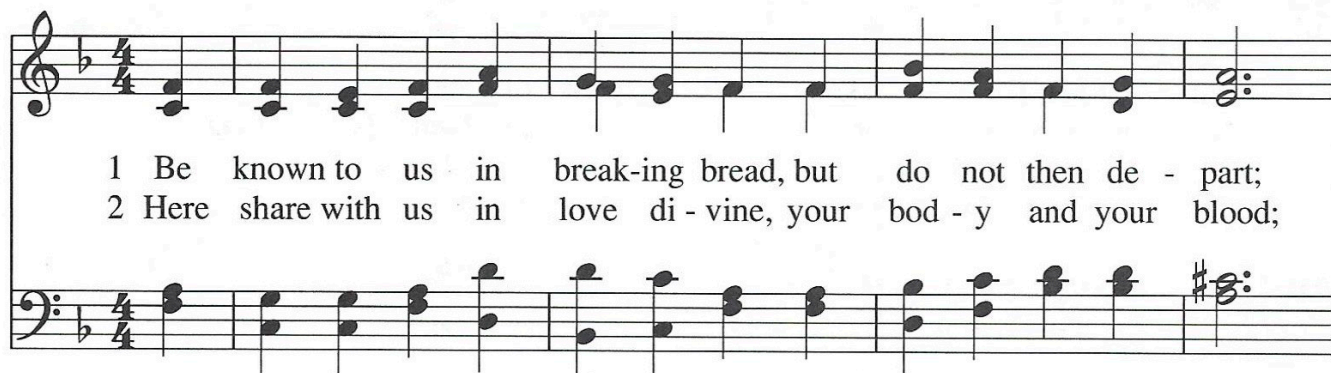
Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
 Erneuerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665
 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

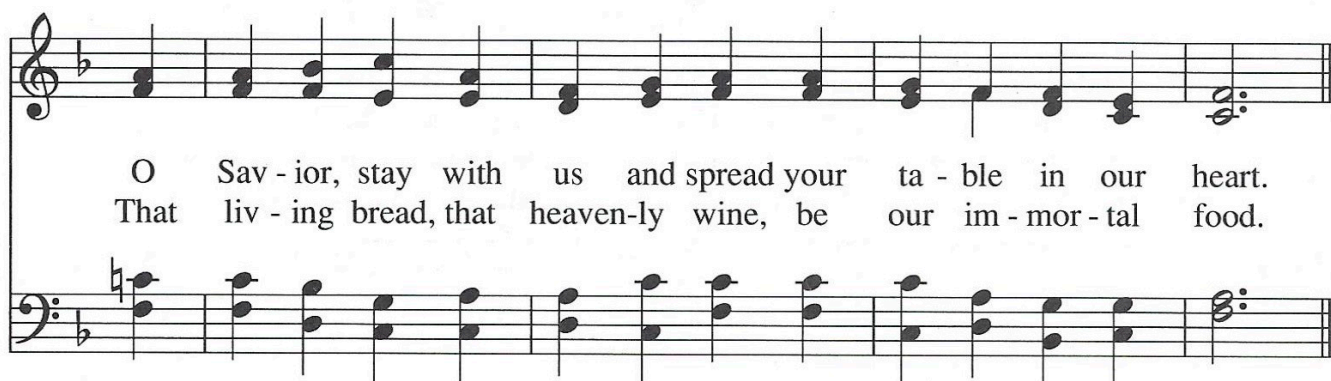
342

James Montgomery, 1825; alt.

Luke 24:30–31, 35



1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
2 Here share with us in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood;



O Sav - ior, stay with us and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
That liv - ing bread, that heaven-ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

This hymn is sometimes found as the second and third stanzas of an American hymn, "Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless." Montgomery—Moravian poet, journalist, humanitarian, and author of more than 400 hymns—titled this hymn "The Family Table."

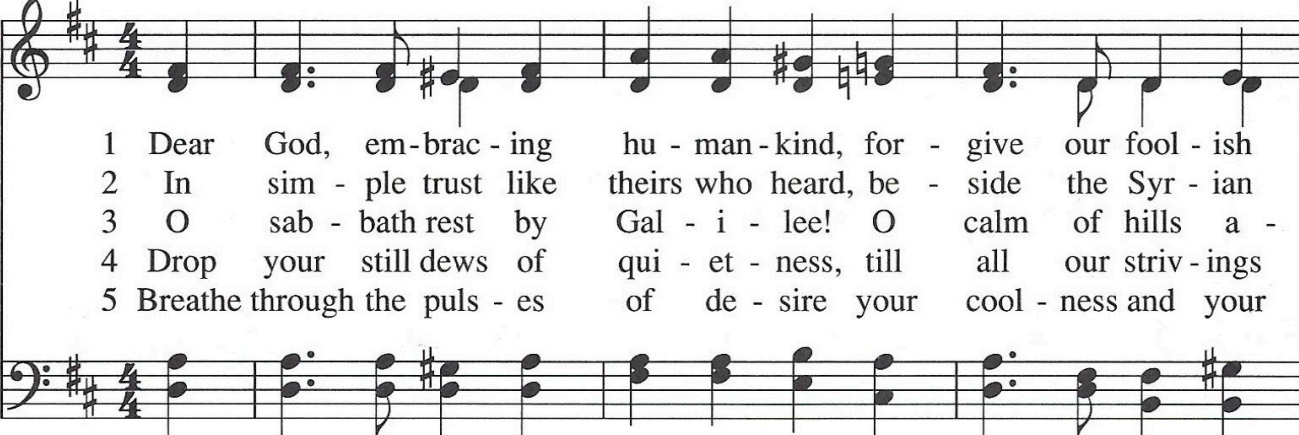
Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
Day, The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

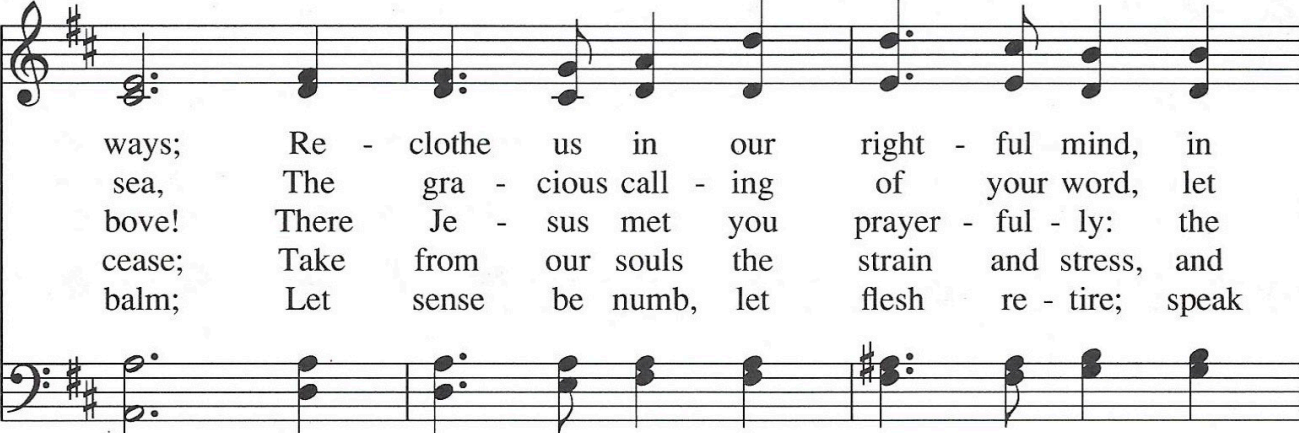
502

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

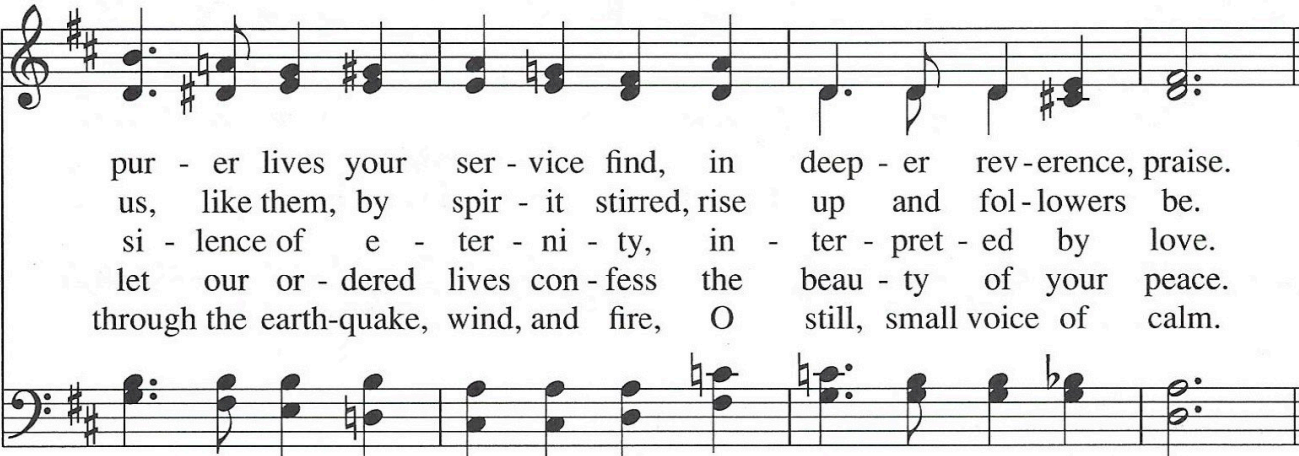
Mark 1:16–20; Matt. 14:22–23; 1 Kings 19:11–12



1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
 bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.
 through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

In his poem "The Brewing of Soma," New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6.
 Frederick C. Maker, 1887
 Alternate tune: REPTON
 (repeating last phrase)

Called as Partners in Christ's Service


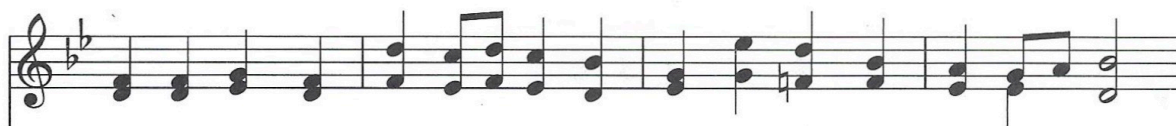
495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981


John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22





1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life


We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

E - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368