

Transfiguration Sunday

February 11, 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

Scott Horton, organ

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

***Call to Worship**

Dolores Torres, Liturgist

From the rising of the sun to its setting
God speaks to us and summons us.
God gathers us in covenant
God's glory shines forth.
Let us worship God!

***Hymn**

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

#182, pew hymnal

Opening Prayer

Dolores Torres

Mighty God, you call to us. You call to the heavens and to the earth in covenant. And so we call to you: be present as we worship. Gather us, so that we may hear your voice and respond to your ways of righteousness. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Choral Anthem

"I'm Just a Poor Wayfarin' Stranger" - P. Drennan

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.***

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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**

"Transform Us"

Insert

Scripture

Mark 9:2-9

Dolores Torres

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

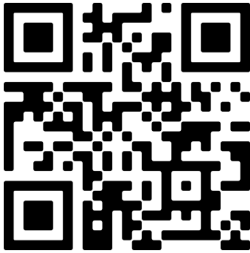
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

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

“Jesus Loves Me” - arr. C. Curry

Scott Horton, piano

***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**

“Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

#77, 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.**

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Postlude

"Poco Vivace", Op. 9 No. 5 - H. Schroeder

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 12

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, February 13

- ♦ 6:00pm: Ministry of Worship meeting - Music Room

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 7:00pm: Joint Worship Service with Amazing Grace Ministries and Rising Star Baptist Church— Sanctuary

Thursday, February 15

- ♦ 6:00pm: Ministry of Resources meeting - Library

Friday, February 16

- ♦ 10:30am: Ministry of Community Outreach meeting - Parlor

Saturday, February 17

Sunday, February 18

- ♦ 9:00am: Exploration Hour - Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 11:15am: Church Council meeting - Parlor

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
- * Ministry of Community Outreach meeting - February 16
- * Church Council Meeting - February 18
- * New Member Brunch - February 25

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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: Dolores Torres

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Sue Karibian and Bob McParland

Acolytes: Sarah and Hudson

Technician: Karisa Garza

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.

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com-plete.
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

Unison

1. Trans-form us as you, trans-fig-ured, stood a-part on
 2. Trans-form us as you, trans-fig-ured, once spoke with those
 3. Trans-form us as you, trans-fig-ured, would not stay with-

Ta-bor's height. Lead us up our sa-cred moun-tains,
 ho-ly ones. We, sur-round-ed by the wit-ness
 in a shrine. Keep us from our great temp-ta-tion-

search us with re-veal-ing light. Lift us from where we have
 of those saints whose work is done, live in this world as your
 time and truth we quick-ly bind. Lead us down those dai-ly

fall-en, full of ques-tions, filled with fright.
 Bod-y, cho-sen daugh-ters, cho-sen sons.
 path-ways where our love is not con-fined.

WORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1989

MUSIC: Traditional French melody (17th century); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

PICARDY

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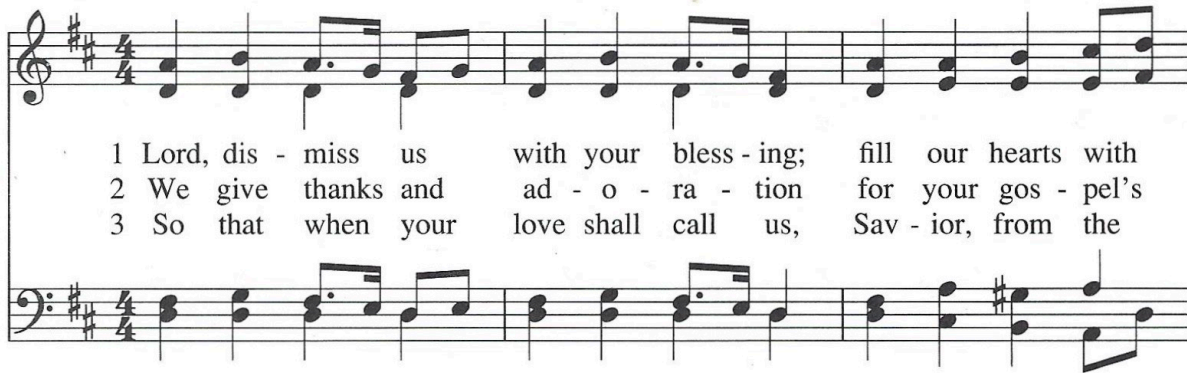
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Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Luke 2:29; Rom. 1:16

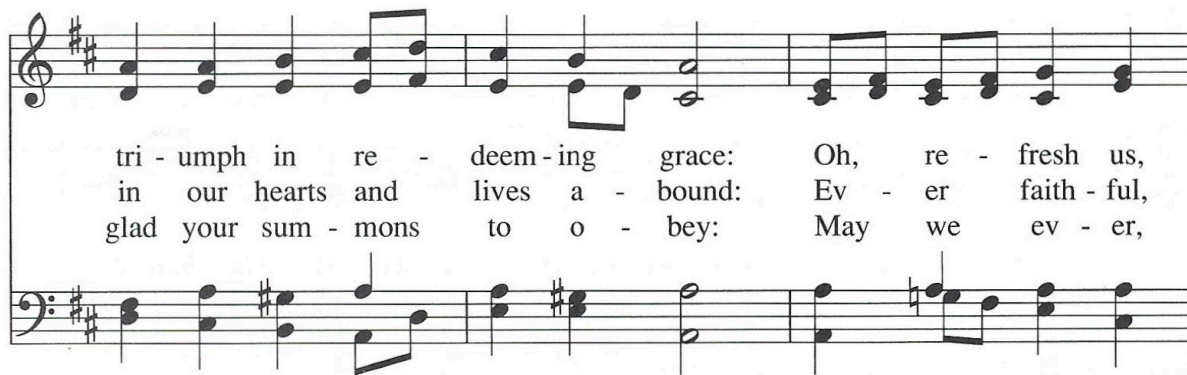
Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the



joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,



oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

Influenced by George Whitefield's preaching, John Fawcett joined the Baptist church, and served as minister in Wainsgate, England, for fifty-four years. Yielding to the persuasion of his parishioners, he declined invitations to move elsewhere. He wrote more than 160 hymns.

Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Sicilian melody, 18th century
 The European Magazine and Review, 1792