

# **Easter Sunday**

## **March 31, 2024**

HE IS NOT HERE

**HE IS RISEN**

HE IS RISEN



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

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi  
Pastor

Easter Sunday  
March 31, 2024

## Our Gathering

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

**Prelude** "Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn", BWV 630 - J.S. Bach Scott Horton, organ  
"Allegro, from Concerto in A Minor after Vivaldi" - J.S. Bach

**Welcome** Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**\*Call to Worship** Michael Camunez, Liturgist

Give thanks to our Good God whose unfailing love lasts forever!

***Give thanks to our Risen God whose unfailing love lives forever!***

We gather together at the dawn of a new day. We look toward the tomb to seek  
the Enfleshed Word.

***The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty! Alleluia!***

We find God alive in the searching, in the garden, in our hope-filled spaces.

***Alleluia. Christ lives and finds us with unfailing love!***

**\*Hymn** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" #233, pew hymnal

**Opening Prayer** Michael Camunez

***Astounding God, very early on that first day you caught chaos unawares: planting grace  
in a garden, setting love loose on creation, flinging joy into the air.***

***Jesus, son of justice, very early on that first day, you staggered sin, throwing its weight  
off the world; you confounded death, leaving it alone in the grave; you opened the gates  
of the Kingdom, so all could follow you into life.***

***Holy Spirit, very early on the first day of the week, while we were washing sleep from  
our eyes and trying to make sense of our lives, you sang glad songs to us, rolling away  
fears from our hearts so we can see the risen Lord.***

***God in community, Holy and One, on this first day of the week, we lift our hearts to you  
in songs of praise and thanksgiving. Amen***

**Anthem** "Easter Anthem" - William Billings 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.***

## 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.*

## Flowering of the Cross

*"Andante Scherzo, from Violin Sonata No. 4" - L. van Beethoven*  
John Morrice, violin & Dr. David Fox, piano

## \*Hymn

"Alleluia No. 1"

## Scripture

Mark 16:1-8

Michael Camunez

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

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.**

Invitation to Generosity

Michael Camunez

Offertory

“A Gaelic Easter Celebration” - arr. P. Drennan  
Chancel Choir; John Morrice, violin; John Shore, percussion



*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.*
- ⇒ *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.*

**\*Doxology (Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*Dedication**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**\*Closing Hymn**

*“Alleluia, Alleluia” (Tune: HYMN TO JOY)*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.  
He who on the cross as Savior, For the world’s salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.**

**Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born,  
Glorious life, and life immortal, On this resurrection morn;  
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer, By his mighty enterprise,  
We with him to life eternal, By his resurrection rise.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;  
Alleluia to the Savior, Who has won the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Font of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.**

**\*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**

“Hallelujah, from *The Messiah*” - G.F. Handel *Easter Celebration Singers*



## ***New Member Brunch***

***Sunday, April 14, 2024***

***11:15am in the Parlor***

***If you are interested in becoming a member or want to learn more about the church, please join Pastor Simon and a few invited guests to hear what First Congregational Church is all about. Orientation materials will be provided.***

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



**TROLLEY PARK  
SOCIAL**

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**April 7th | 4-7pm**  
**Corner of Van Ness & Weldon**

Join with the community to celebrate our new park!  
Bring blankets, chairs, eats, & treats for an evening outdoors and get to know your neighbors. There will be FREE ice cream for the kiddos and popcorn for all!

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**Cambridge Ave Yard Sale  
Saturday Apr 6th**

Do you have stuff you would love to part with? Would you like to make a little cash? Do you want to help out the church? Yes...great. Spots are available for the yard sale. \$20 gets you a prime spot in front of the church and you keep all you earn. Applications on the table in the Narthex.

**Donate to the cause**

**Friday 5pm to 7pm  
Fellowship Hall**

Gently used items, sm. furnishings, kitchen appliances, books, toys, shoes, bikes, etc., working items only.

Please price any "collectibles" prior to donating  
**PLEASE NO CLOTHES**

# This Week at Big Red

## Monday, April 1

- ◆ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Tuesday, April 2

## Wednesday, April 3

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

## Thursday, April 4

## Friday, April 5

- ◆ 5:00pm: Cambridge Avenue Yard sale donation drop off - please read flier

## Saturday, April 6

- ◆ 7:00am: Cambridge Avenue Yard sale

## Sunday, April 7

- ◆ 9:00am: Exploration Hour - Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ◆ 10:00am: Worship - Sanctuary
- ◆ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall
- ◆ 4:00pm: Trolley Park Social

## **Upcoming Events**

- ◆ **Cambridge Avenue Yard Sale - April 6th**
- ◆ **Trolley Park Social - April 7th**
- ◆ **New Member Brunch - April 14th**
- ◆ **PorchFest - April 27**

# First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Bigredchurch.org

## 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

Dari Rezvani

## Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton  
Liturgist: Michael Camunez  
Ushers: Harold Householder, Richard VanWyhe, Cliff Dodd  
Acolytes: Olivia and Makenna  
Technician: Brad Jenkins

Brass Quartet:  
Joseph Horton, Trumpet;  
Robbyn Mosely, Cornet;  
Phillip Hobson, French horn  
John Morrice, Euphonium  
John Shore: Timpanist/Percussion  
Jean Linder and Hilary Ross: Handbells

## 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.

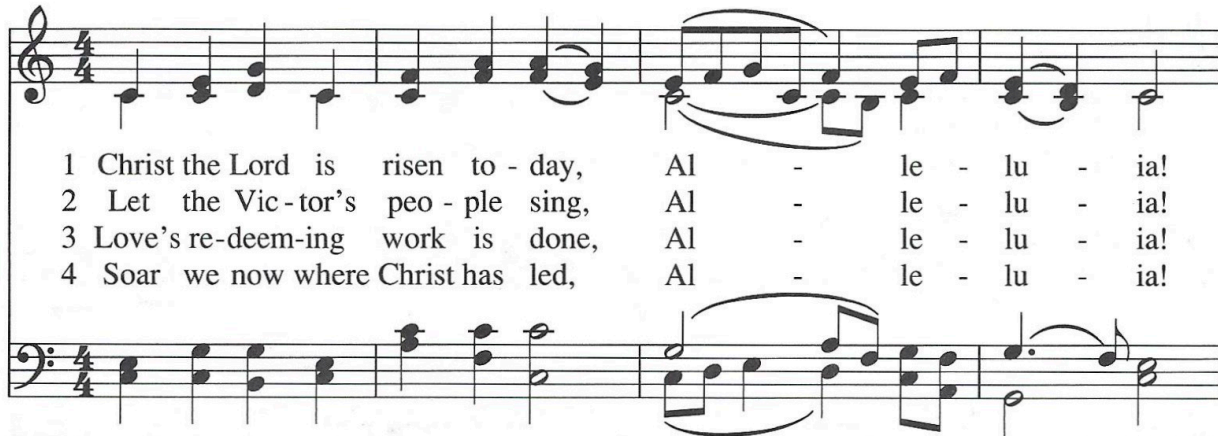
As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

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.

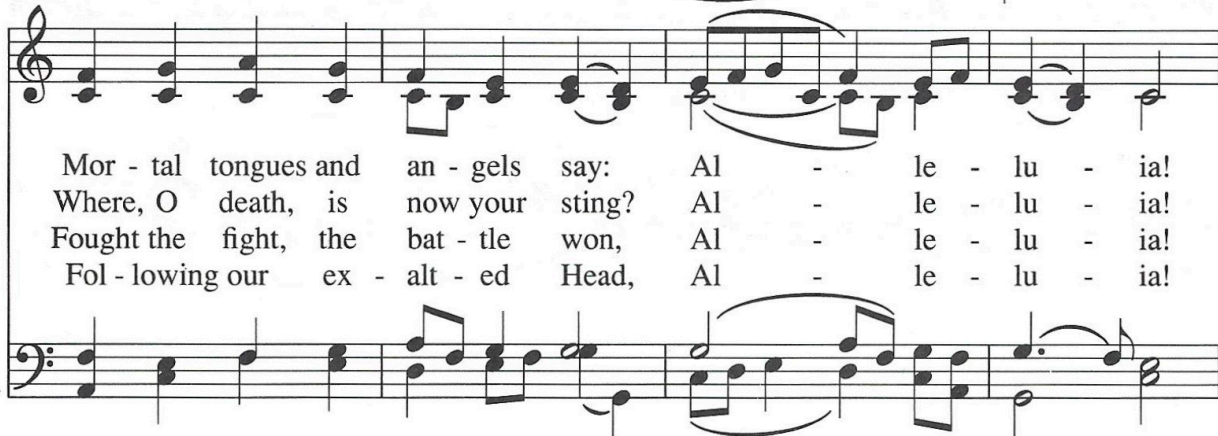


Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

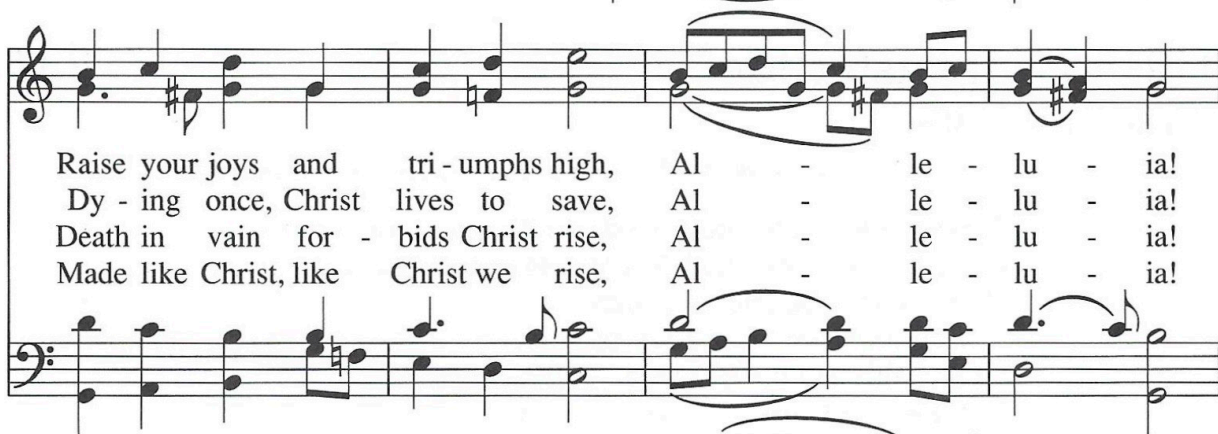
Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.



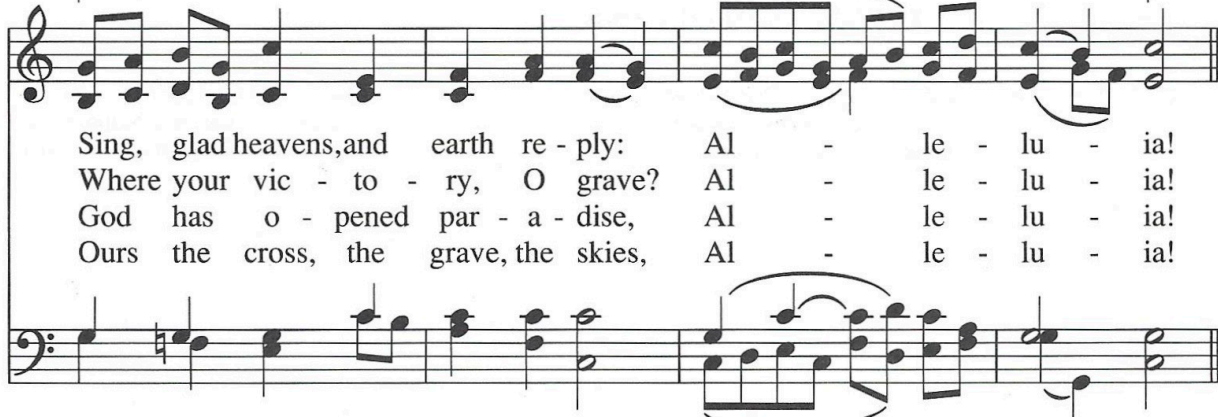
1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

*The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.*

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias  
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Concertato on

# Alleluia No. 1

## CONGREGATIONAL PART

Choral Setting by  
HAL H. HOPSON

Words and Music by  
DONALD FISHEL

**Introduction (Organ, Brass, Choir)**

**Refrain (Choir)**



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give \_ thanks to the ris - en Lord,



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give \_ praise to his \_ name!

**Refrain (Choir & Congregation)**

**Verses:**



Choir only 1. Je - sus is Lord of all the \_ earth.  
Choir & Cong. 2. Spread the good news o'er all the \_ earth;  
Choir & Cong. 3. We have been cru - ci - fied with \_ Christ.  
Choir & Cong. 4. Come, let us praise the liv - ing \_ God,



He is the King of cre - a - tion. **Refrain (Choir & Cong.)**  
Je - sus has died and has ris - en. **Refrain (Choir & Cong.)**  
Now we shall live \_ for - ev - er. **Refrain (Choir & Cong.)**  
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior. **Refrain (Choir & Cong.)**

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