

Second Sunday of Easter and Communion

April 7, 2024



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

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
Pastor

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

Our Gathering

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

Prelude Hymn-Sing

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

*Call to Worship

Maggie Kalashian, Liturgist

As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief. After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Peace be with you."

We might feel drawn to doubt, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true.

But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Here are the marks on my body."

Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ's peace is with us. We don't need to be afraid.

Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ.

Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

*Hymn

"Yours Is the Glory"

#253 , pew hymnal

Prayer of Confession

Maggie Kalashian

God, we confess that there are moments when we experience hopelessness. As we are overwhelmed by the world's grief, it's natural for us to be cynical. It's hard to believe that hope is possible when hope is hard to find. But when we stop believing in hope, we also stop believing liberation can be possible. When we stop working to tear down injustice and discrimination, we stop others from experiencing the peace we have found in you. Forgive our unbelief, calm our fears, and help us be instruments of your peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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.*

Holy Communion

*Hymn of Preparation	“Jesus Took the Bread”	#343, pew hymnal
Invitation to the Table		
The Sharing		
Prayer of Thanksgiving		

*Hymn	“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”	#292, pew hymnal
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Scripture	Acts 4:32-35	Maggie Kalashian
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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
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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.**

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Invitation to Generosity

Maggie Kalashian



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.*

Offertory

“Jesus Christus, unser Heiland” BWV 626 - J.S. Bach Scott Horton, organ

***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**

“The Day of Resurrection”

#245, 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**

“Allegro Maestoso” - G.F. Handel

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

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 no later than noon on Friday 04/12
559-227-8489*

Next Sunday after worship.

Call the office by Friday noon.

TODAY



**TROLLEY PARK
SOCIAL**

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!

This Week at Big Red

Monday, April 8

- ◆ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, April 9

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

Friday, April 12

Saturday, April 13

Sunday, April 14

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

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **New Member Brunch - April 14th**
- ◆ **PorchFest - April 27**
- ◆ **Campus Clean-up - May 4**

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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

Bigredchurch.org

Pastor

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi
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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: Maggie Kalashian

Ushers: Cliff Dodd, Mike Gostanian, Teresa Fuentes

Acolytes: Olivia and Makenna

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Pat Morales and Paula Roberts

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.

A toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité!

(Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!)

Matt. 28:1-10; John 20:19-29; 1 Cor. 15:54-55

Edmond L. Budry, 1904

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

1 A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té! A toi la vic - toi - re,
 1 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One! End - less is the vic - tory
 2 See, it is Je - sus, Je - sus has ap - peared; do not doubt at all for
 3 Am I still fright - ened? One whom I a - dore, Je - sus, lives a - gain, gives

pour l'é - ter - ni - té! Bril - lant de lu - miè - re, l'ange est de - scen -
 you o'er death have won. An - gels clothed in ra - diance rolled the stone a -
 noth - ing you will fear. Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph
 peace for - ev - er - more. Je - sus is my vic - tory, life and strength and

du, il rou - le la pier - re du tom - beau vain - cu.
 way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.
 sing; tell it with - out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.
 Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.

Refrain

A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té!
 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!

A toi la vic - toi - re, pour l'é - ter - ni - té!
 End - less is the vic - tory you o'er death have won.

Matt. 26:26-28; Luke 9:16; 22:19; 24:30

Ruth Duck, 1982

Unison

D A F#m Bm Em7 D/A A7

1 Je - sus took the bread, dai - ly gift of God,
 2 Je - sus blessed the bread, thanked the God of grace,
 3 Je - sus broke the bread; then he poured the wine.
 4 Je - sus gives the bread at our ta - ble still,

Bm Bm7 GM7 C Em7 A7

formed of wheat and sweat and toil, sun, rain, and sod.
 thanked the One who made all worlds, all time, all space.
 Bro - ken bod - y, life poured out, God gives as sign.
 gives the cup to those who seek God's lov - ing will.

D A Bm Em F#m GM7 A7

In our hands we take gifts of bread and wine,
 Bless - ing, hon - or, praise, all to God be - long.
 Weak, a - fraid, and lost: that is when we're healed.
 Let us go in peace; let us free - ly give,

D A F# Bm Em A7 D

gath - ered from the fields of earth, signs of love di - vine.
 Let us lift our hearts to God in a thank - ful song.
 In our hu - man bro - ken - ness: there God is re - vealed.
 shar - ing love with all the world dai - ly as we live.

Ruth Duck wrote this hymn emphasizing the actions of communion—taking, blessing, breaking, and giving the bread—following a summer study of liturgy at the University of Notre Dame. It was first used at New Hope United Church of Christ in Milwaukee.

Tune: NEW HOPE 10.11.10.12.

Ruth Duck, 1982

Arr. Randall Sensmeier, 1982

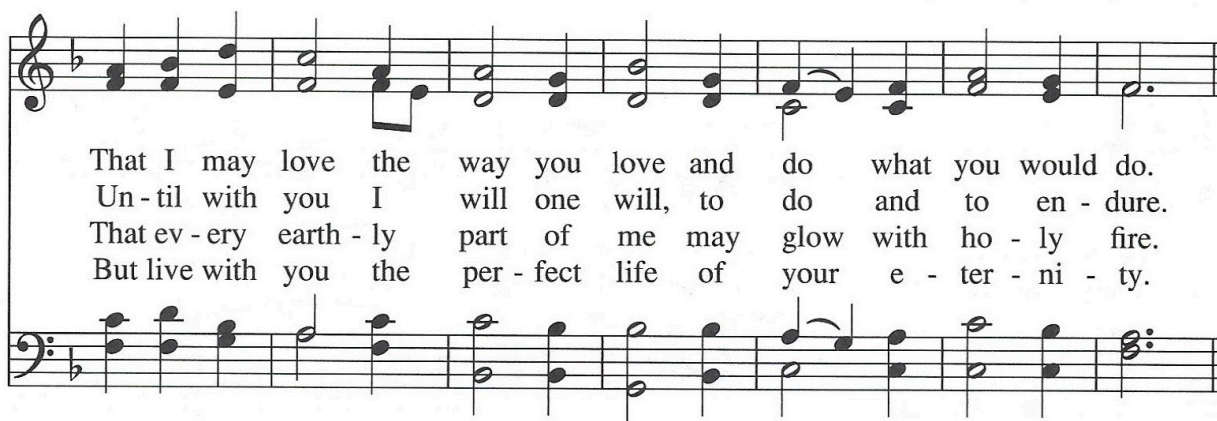
Breathe on Me, Breath of God

292

Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

Between parish assignments in London, Edwin Hatch taught classics at Trinity College, Quebec, and lectured at Oxford. This hymn appeared in a leaflet, "Between Doubt and Prayer" (1878). Other hymns were published posthumously in Towards Fields of Light, London (1890).

Tune: TRENTHAM S.M.
Robert Jackson, 1894

The Day of Resurrection

John of Damascus, 8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

Mark 16:1-6

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;
the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad-ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural canticle—was the source of this hymn. John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836