Sixth Sunday of Easter and Communion May 5, 2024



First Congregational Church of Fresno United Church of Christ 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. Fresno, CA 93704 Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi Pastor

Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5, 2024

Our Gathering

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

Prelude Hymn Sing

Welcome Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

*Call to Worship Jessica Berzac, Liturgist

One: Christ gives us a new commandment: All: "Love one another as I have loved you."

One: When we love one another as Christ has loved us, we will live lives full of joy.

All: We will live with God's love deep in our hearts.

One: Let us worship the one who shows us how to love.

All: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

*Hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" insert

Prayer of Transformation

Jessica Berzac

Jesus, our sibling and friend, we confess that we do not always love one another. Our divisions and disagreements so often prevent us from knowing the joy of meaningful relationships. Even as we seek to follow your example, we forget that we are chosen and appointed by you to bring hope to a weary world. Help us renew our focus and live by your will...that we may follow you with joy in our hearts.

Words of Grace

Anthem "In Remembrance" - B. Red Chancel Choir Nancy Mack, flute

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 "As We Gather At Your Table" #332 pew hymnal

Invitation to the Table

The Sharing

Communion Music "Canon in D" - Pachelbel, arr. Stent Nancy Mack, flute

Scott Horton, piano

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" #290, pew hymnal

Scripture Acts 10:44-48 Jessica Berzac

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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.

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Prayers of the Church

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Invitation to Generosity

Jessica Berzac



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

"Offertory on ROYAL OAK" - arr. Harmon 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 "In Christ There is No East or West" #394, 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.

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*Postlude

"Earth and All Stars" - arr. Osterland

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.



Mother's Day Brunch is next Sunday, May 12, in the Fellowship Hall, immediately

following worship.

Come and enjoy a delightful array of tea sandwiches, pasta and Cesar salads with a yummy cake for dessert and mock mimosas to toast all the special people that we call mom.

Congregational Meeting May 19th, immediately after worship service



This Week at Big Red

Monday, May 6

• **5:00pm:** Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, May 7

Wednesday, May 8

8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom

• 4:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

• 6:00pm: Handbell rehearsal - Music Room

7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal – Sanctuary

Thursday, May 9

Friday, May 10

Saturday, May 11

Sunday, May 12

• 9:00am: Exploration Hour - Roots and Branches - Fireside Room

• 10:00am: Worship - Sanctuary

• 11:00am: Mother's Day Brunch - Fellowship Hall

We believe God wants to liberate those in bondage. If you are a victim Marjaree of domestic violence we encourage you to find safety. 559.233.HELP Mason
Help@MMCenter.org

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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Bigredchurch.org

Pastor

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Technicians

Karisa Garza Brad Jenkins

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Jessica Berzac

Ushers: Harold Householder, Richard VanWyhe

Acolytes: Olivia and Hudson Technician: Karisa Gaza

Coffee Hour: Pat Morales and Paula Roberts

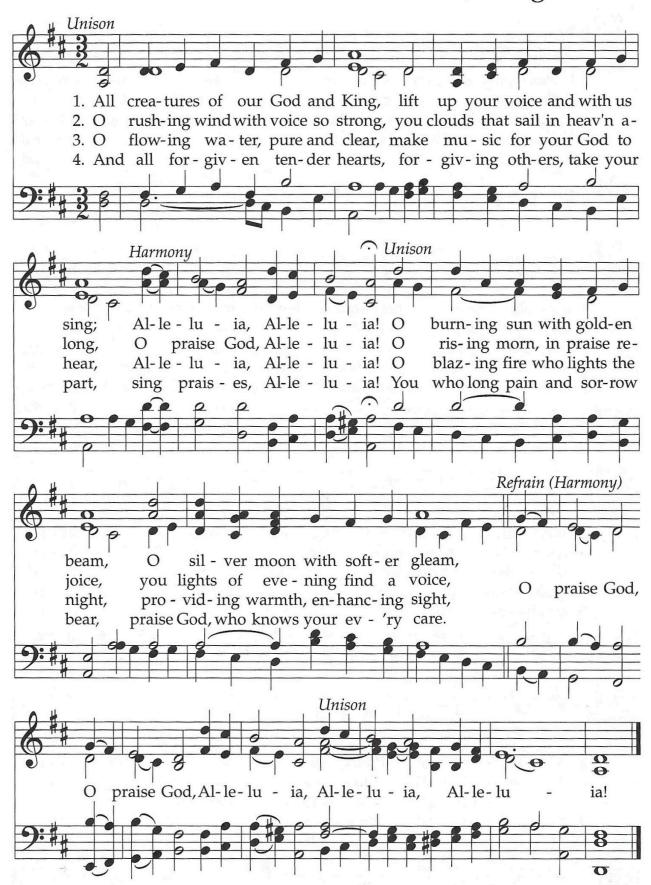
FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

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.

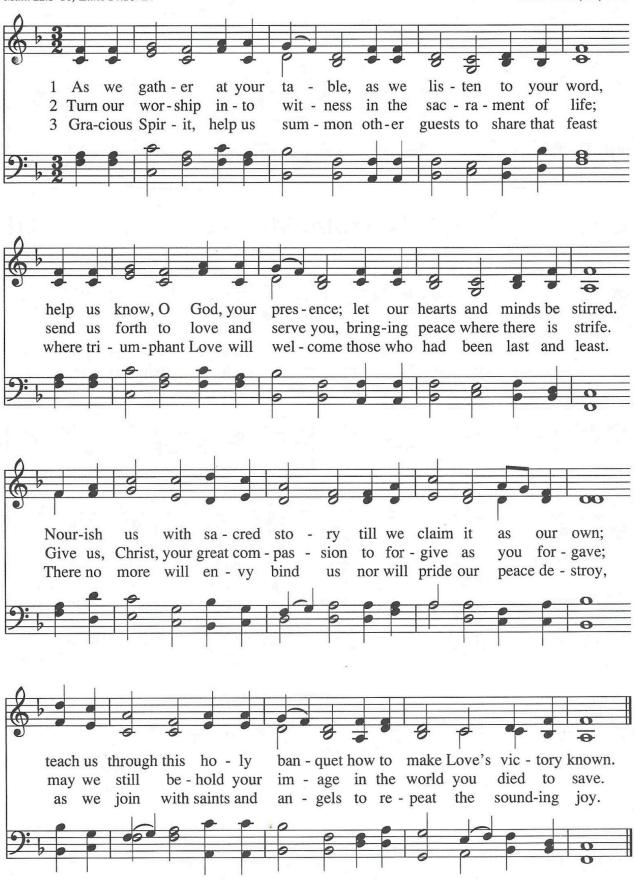
As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

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.



Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989



In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
The Sacred Harp, 1844
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

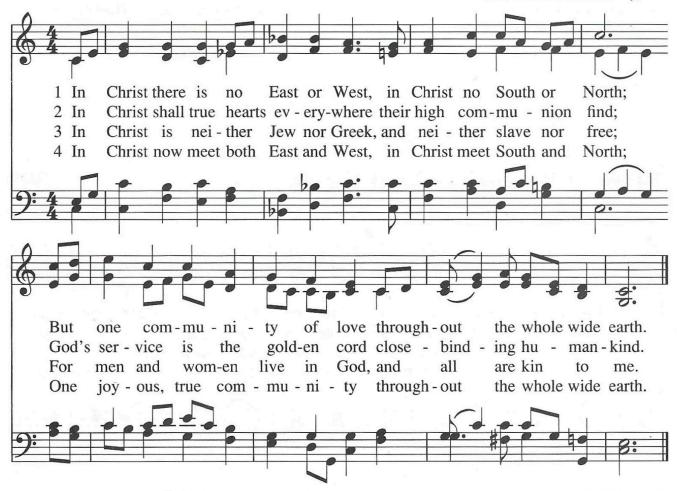
George Croly, 1854; alt. Gal. 5:25; Matt. 22:37; John 1:32 8 of God, Spir it de scend heart; 1 up on my 2 ask dream, proph - et sies, no no ec sta 3 Have not bid us love ery way? you you ev 4 Teach feel me to that you are al - ways nigh; 5 Teach love an - gels love, me to you as your 00 wean it from earth, through all its puls es move; sud - den rend ing of the veil of clay, no All, all soul, mind; your own: heart, and strength, and teach the gles of the soul bear, me strug to sion fill - ing frame; one ho - ly pas all my Stoop to my weak ness. might - y you are, No an gel vis tant, no 0 pening skies; I your crossthere teach see my heart to stay: To check the doubt, the sigh; ris ing reb The bap - tism scend - ed of the heaven-de dove, and make me love you I ought love. as to but take the dim - ness of my soul way. a 0 let me seek you, 0 let find. and me teach me the pa - tience of swered prayer. un an al - tar, heart an and love the flame. my your

George Croly, ordained in the Church of Ireland, was well known in London literary circles and served a poor parish. This hymn is from a collection he compiled for that congregation. Hellespont was the original name for the tune Morecambe. Tune: MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10. Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

In Christ There Is No East or West

1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22

John Oxenham, 1908; alt. St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987



Singer and composer Harry T. Burleigh studied at the National Conservatory of Music from 1892 to 1896. He is recognized as the first African-American composer to employ spirituals in concert arrangements. This tune is named after the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City, where Burleigh served as baritone soloist for more than fifty years.

Tune: McKEE C.M. African-American melody Arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939 Alternate setting: ST. PETER