



# UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOYFULLY SHARING GOD'S BOUNDLESS LOVE WITH ALL IN OUR  
COMMUNITY WITHOUT LIMITATION, EXCEPTION OR CONDITION



**April 28, 2024**



# WELCOME TO UPC

We are happy you chose to spend your morning with us, and hope you make yourself feel at home. Feel free to follow along or simply observe, as you feel comfortable. Restrooms are located in the Lobby to the left of the Sanctuary.

**New to UPC?** For more information about our church, fill out a blue Connection Card located near your seat and drop it by the Welcome Center on your way out. Or complete a Connection Card digitally at [upfresno.org/connect](http://upfresno.org/connect).

**Children in Worship |** Here at UPC, we value children being a part of our faith community and not an accessory to it. Children are welcome to stay in worship and sing, dance, clap, draw, and move about as they feel comfortable. Children's Bulletins are available at the Welcome Center. There is a Family Room located at the back of the Sanctuary with a changing table, toys for the kids, and windows and audio to participate in worship. A Nursery (across the Courtyard) is available for children from birth to age 4. Children ages 5-4th grade will be welcomed to attend Godly Play at the time of the announcements should they choose.

## **Current Sermon Series: Practices: Core Practices of the Christian Faith**

Whether you've been a Christian your whole life, or are just getting started in learning the ways of Jesus, there are seven key practices that draw us ever deeper into the mystery of God's love. Join us as we explore these ancient traditions and "practice" our faith together.

**Scan here** to discover other opportunities to connect and serve. You can also take a minute and introduce yourself through our digital Connection Cards, or make a gift online to support the life and ministry of UPC.



# PRACTICES: CORE PRACTICES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

## PRELUDE

Patrick Aguirre, Guitar

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus, you gather us, and you feed us:

**In open fields and among most intimate friends;**

In the homes of the doubters and the faithful;

**In an upper room and on the beach.**

Jesus, you gather us, and you feed us:

**By your sweet presence,**

**bless our celebration and sharing,**

**the promised kingdom feast,**

**bringing community together with all you offer.**

## \* GATHERING SONG

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" No. 509

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL TO GODLY PLAY

## \* SONG

"Who You Say I Am"

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9.10-17, Luke 14.15-24, and Luke 19.1-10

## SERMON

Ceci Johnson

*\* please stand in body or in spirit*



## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

"You Say" by Lauren Daigle  
Worship Band

## **COMMUNION**

All are welcome to participate. No pressure.  
Our Communion consists of gluten free bread and grape juice.

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

"For Everyone Born" No. 769

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**\* SONG OF SENDING**

"Everlasting God"

**\* BLESSING**

**Worship Team:** Rev. Renn Serna, Senior Pastor; Rev. Kent Leydens, Care Pastor & Director of Community Life; Cactus Harris, Music Director; Josh Lara, Contemporary Worship Leader; Anne Webster, Vocalist; and Bradford Boyajian, A/V Coordinator

**Contemporary Worship Band:** Patrick Aguirre, Guitar; Josh Lara, Percussion; Destiny Lara, Bass; Hailey Groves, Piano; and Anne Webster, Vocalist.

**Hosts:** Holly Volpp and Leonard Deal

*\* please stand in body or in spirit*



## TODAY AT UPC

**Godly Play |** Our Montessori-based program centers wonder and play for children ages 5-4th grade. Children will be welcomed to attend at the time of the announcements and a volunteer will lead them to our Godly Play classroom for the remainder of worship.

**Youth | Sundays at 10 a.m. | Youth Room |** Youth 5th grade and up gather to creatively engage with stories from Scripture and wrestle with all the hard questions that this time of life brings up. Youth meet on Sundays in the Youth Room (next to the playground) from 10-11am. First Sunday of the month youth worship with the whole community.

**Lunch with the Lord | Sundays at 11:30 a.m. or 12 p.m. | Church Office & Zoom |** Our Adult Ed class gathers for Bible Study and community. We begin at 11:30 or 12, depending on churchwide activity schedules. To receive the Zoom link or find out more, contact Dawn Lawrence or the Church Office.

**Fresno State Art Song Festival Concert | Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m. |** Featuring Dr. Maria Okunev-Briggs, Soprano; Anton Belov, Baritone; and Arne Kela, Piano. Admission is free, suggested \$10 donation.

## THIS WEEK AT UPC

**Sacred Space | Tuesdays at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Youth Room |** This small group engages with prayer, readings from Scripture and simple meditative tools informed by the Judeo-Christian and Indian traditions. Led by Ettore Vitali. All are welcome. Sign up: [upcfresno.org/smallgroups](http://upcfresno.org/smallgroups).

**Men's In Person Bible Study | Wednesdays at 7 a.m. | Fireside Room |** Help give shape to this new weekly men's gathering. Contact Craig Sullivan or the Church Office for information, or grab some coffee and just come!



**Men's Bible Study | Wednesdays at 9 a.m. | Zoom** | A place for men to grow in love through studying God's word. For more information contact Ken Jones or the Church Office.

**Women's In Person Bible Study | Wednesdays at 10 a.m. | Fireside Room** | We welcome you to join us to connect and grow through weekly Bible Study. For more information contact Claudia Kruse or the Church Office.

**Women's Online Bible Study | Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. | Zoom** | Women's Weekly Bible Study on Zoom is studying the Gospel of Luke. We welcome you to join us! For information about the group, contact Ceci Johnson or the Church Office.

**Community Playgroup | Thursday at 10 a.m.** | Calling all kiddos! Join us weekly at the UPC Playground for snacks, story time and play. This outdoor event is open to children ages 0-5. RSVP at [upcfresno.org/play](http://upcfresno.org/play) to join the fun.

**Food Items Needed** | Drop off Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Community Garden Volunteers** | Help feed our neighbors by volunteering once or twice a month to water, weed, and harvest our newly planted community garden. Signup at [upcfresno.org/garden](http://upcfresno.org/garden) or contact Bob Berend for more information.



## COMING UP AT UPC

### **Young Families Gathering | Sunday, May 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. | Fireside Room |**

Families with young children are invited to gather at the church for a monthly conversation and a potluck meal. Nursery care provided. RSVP to the Church Office so we can plan appropriately for childcare.

## CONCERTS AT UPC

**Concerts Newsletter |** Sign up to receive monthly updates about music events at [upcfresno.org/concerts](http://upcfresno.org/concerts) or by scanning the QR code on page 2.

**Fresno Master Chorale: Coro Piccolo | Sunday, May 12 at 2:30pm |** Coro Piccolo, conducted by Dr. Anna Hamre, presents Benjamin Britten's Saint Nicolas with organ, piano four hands, string ensemble, and percussion. Tenor soloist is Aaron Burdick. Tickets are \$20 and available at [fresnocommunitychorus.org](http://fresnocommunitychorus.org).

## CARING AT UPC

**If you would like to be placed on the prayer chain,** contact the office at [upc@upcfresno.org](mailto:upc@upcfresno.org).

**If you have a pastoral emergency** when the office is closed, call (559) 387-4250, leave a message, and a pastor will get back to you.



## **PRACTICES: CORE PRACTICES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**

*How can visiting the stories Luke tells us about Jesus' passion for feeding people and fostering hospitality shape our practice of eating in our community of faith, and our lives of faith and service?*

### **Loaves and Fishes**

by David Farley

Though I'm just a boy with some bread and a couple of fishes,  
I'll give them to this hungry crown and to the one who knows my wounds and wishes.  
And I pray he works a miracle for the ones who the world leaves empty,  
For we who struggle and starve while the few cling tight to their plenty.  
This is my prayer. This is my prayer. This is my prayer.

For those who work on the land, for those who plant the seed,  
For those who work with their hands to bring us the food we need  
Thanks be to God and blessings on all who labor.  
Thanks be to God and justice for all our neighbors.  
This is my prayer.

Come all who hunger and thirst and bring what you have to share,  
It may seem so little at first, but soon there'll be plenty there.  
For the one who made heaven and earth, the one who brought forth the waters  
Has given the fruits of the earth to all life's sons and daughters.  
Though I'm just a boy with some bread and a couple of fishes  
I'll give them to this hungry crowd and to the one who knows my wounds and wishes  
This is my prayer. This is my prayer. Amen.

## **CONTACT US**

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