



April 2nd, 2023—Palm Sunday  
Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

First Christian Church Chico

(Disciples of Christ)



AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE

Wi-Fi Network: FCCDOC Password: 5303433727

Ph. 530-343-3727 • [chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com) • [fccchico.com](http://fccchico.com)

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**Welcome Visitors!** We are excited that you have chosen to worship with us today; all are welcome and beloved—all races, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, *everyone*.

## I. Prelude – (Shelly Fairchild’s String Ensemble)

## II. Welcome and Announcements – (Connie Wakefield)

- Today – Fellowship following service. 12:15 p.m. Bazaar meeting in Room 6.
- Tuesday – 11:30 a.m. Music jam in Room 4; 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting on Zoom.
- Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Scouts in K-Hall and Fireside
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner; 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble practice in chapel; 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service in Fireside Room.
- Friday—Good Friday; Church Office Closed.
- Sunday – 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service in church parking lot or inside if raining, 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds; 10:00 a.m. Worship in sanctuary, Zoom and FaceBook Live; Fellowship in K-Hall following the service with egg hunt and gift bags for kids
- Offerings may be put in the collection plate which is near the bulletins near the entrance of the sanctuary

### **III. Opening Hymn – CP #87 “Le lo le lo lay lo (Sanctus)”**

Le lo le lo lay lo. Le lo le lo lay lo.  
Le lo le lo lay lo, lo le lo le lo lay  
Le lo le lo lay lo. Le lo le lo lay lo.  
Le lo le lo lay lo, lo le lo le lo lay

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might.  
Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

### **IV. Call to Worship – (Connie Wakefield)**

Open the gates!

**Give us courage to walk through!**

Lay down the cloaks.

**We mark the journey to Love’s reign.**

Lift up the branches!

**Let us boldly proclaim God’s peace!**

### **V. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School**

### **VI. Call to Confession (Connie Wakefield)**

Our call to confession this morning will be in unison.  
Would you join me as we pray -

**O God,  
we stand at the gate,  
hesitant and uncertain;  
we are reluctant to answer your invitation;  
we are slow to embark on the journey  
toward your reign.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Grant us the help we need to be your people—  
the courage to join you in the procession;**

**the selflessness to lay our cloaks before you;  
the freedom to lift our palms to your glory;  
and the knowledge that by your grace  
we are forgiven. Amen.**

Hear this good news!  
The procession is ever moving forward.  
We can join at any moment.  
The invitation still stands!  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God! Amen!**

#### **VII. Matthew 21:1-11 NRSV – (Connie Wakefield)**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.’ This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

‘Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

#### **VIII. Sermon - “Where Are You Headed?” (Jesse Kearns)**

#### **IX. Song of Invitation – CH #192 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (Joshua Hegg)**

All glory, laud, and honor  
To you Redeemer King  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring!  
You are the child of Israel  
Great David’s greater son  
You ride in lowly triumph  
Messiah blessed one.

The company of angels  
Are praising you on high  
And we with all creation  
In chorus make reply  
The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before you went  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before you we present

To you before your passion  
They sang their hymns of praise  
To you now high exalted  
Our melody we raise  
As you received their praises  
Now hear us as we pray  
Since you delight in goodness  
Rule in our hearts today

#### **X. An Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in a God who walks headfirst into the world's suffering, who lights a candle in the darkest night, who pulls back the curtain so we can see the stars.**

**We believe in a God who does not shy away from the truth, who is bold in seeking justice, and humble in taking power.**

**We believe in a God who sees our hurt and wraps love around it, cocooning us in hope, tethering us to one another.**

**We believe in a God who is always carrying us from the pain of the world into the hope of a new day.**

**That is where God is headed. That is where we follow. May it be so.  
Amen.**

#### **XI. Prayers of the People (Mary Kearns)**

#### **XII. Communion Song CH #422 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (Joshua Hegg)**

Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one,  
at his table he set the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,

love in word and in deed express.  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

### **XIII. Institution of Communion (Bill Peterson and Bobbi Robinson, Elders)**

### **XIV. Partaking Communion Together**

### **XV. Blessing/Benediction**

### **XVI. Postlude – (Shelley Fairchild’s String Ensemble)**

### **Easter Flowers**

Once again, we will be decorating the Sanctuary and chapel with seasonal flowers. Envelopes are in the pew racks. **The cost is \$12. Deadline to order flowers is TODAY Palm Sunday, April 2nd.**

## **Boy Scout Troop 2 Chico “Steak and Prawn Dinner”: A Fundraising Event on April 15, 2023**

They will have a Live and Silent Auction and need donations. They are looking for:

- Medium to Large size baskets
- Homemade craft items
- New/Unused Gardening Items: gloves, seeds, bulbs, watering cans, pruning tools, flower pots
- New/Unused Baking/Cooking items: oven mitts, kitchen towels, cupcake holders, cake mix, cookie mix, sprinkles, whisks, mixing bowls, cookie cutters, measuring cups or spoons
- Any new/unused items you don’t need

Funds that are raised during this event help Scouts pay for summer camps, merit badges, troop activities, and our yearly charter fees for the entire troop. This major fundraiser helps send Troop 2 Scouts to summer high adventure programs that have included trips to Philmont Scout Ranch, Florida Sea Base, and Northern Tier High Adventure.

- Tickets to attend this worthy event are also available for \$40.
- If you have any questions or comments or contributions, please contact Troop 2. Thank you!
  - Jolene Moore, Auction Coordinator, 530-566-5925, and
  - Jay Nelson, Troop 2 Chico Chartered Org. Rep., 530-624-9861, [coffeemanjay@aol.com](mailto:coffeemanjay@aol.com)
  - Troop 2: 530-514-7108, [info@troop2chico.com](mailto:info@troop2chico.com)



# We Are Witnesses

Acts 10:39

**SUNDAY  
April 2  
and 9, 2023**

Supporting general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) received in most congregations



# We Are Witnesses

Acts 10:39

Supporting general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) received in most congregations

**Sunday April 2 and 9, 2023**

On Easter, we rejoice in the good news that God's love is more powerful even than death itself. Gifts to the Easter Special Offering support ministries that help Disciples witness to that good news.

General ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness to God's love through:

- Relationships with global mission partners serving in communities impacted by climate change.
- Health and social service ministries that meet basic needs for neighbors.
- Mental health resources for pastors and congregations.
- New congregations worshipping in a variety of languages and worship styles.
- Leadership development programs that nurture new leaders in the church and the world.
- Stewardship education for congregations to grow in their practice of generosity.
- Opportunities like the General Assembly, where the church can gather for worshipful work.
- Support for hospital and military chaplains serving around the world.
- And so much more...



**The Easter Offering supports these general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

Center for Faith and Giving, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Obra Hispana), Communication Ministries, Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries), Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, National Convocation, New Church Ministry, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, Office of the General Minister and President, Treasury Services

**We are witnesses to the power of God's love, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Please give generously in your congregation on April 2 and 9, or make a gift at [disciplesmissionfund.org/give](https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give).**

## Credits

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### This Sunday—Palm Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 and on [Zoom](#)
- 10:00 a.m. Indoor Worship in Sanctuary and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Fellowship, Koinonia Hall
- 12:15 p.m. Bazaar Meeting, Room 6
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

### Tuesday

- 11:30 a.m. Music Jam, Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting, on [Zoom](#)

### Wednesday

- 6:00 p.m. Scouts, Koinonia Hall, Fireside

### Thursday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner
- 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble Rehearsals, Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Fireside

### Friday—Good Friday, Church Office Closed

### Next Sunday—Easter Sunday

- 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 and on [Zoom](#)
- 10:00 a.m. Indoor Worship in Sanctuary and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Fellowship with egg hunt and gift bags for kids, Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary



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## Upcoming Events

- Maundy Thursday, April 6th, 7 pm service in Fireside
- Easter Sunday, April 9th, Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. service, followed by fellowship hosted by the Elders, with an egg hunt and gift bags for children.
- Pentecost in the Park, May 21st, Wildwood Park

## Some FAQs for Visitors

- **What is Communion?** Communion is a part of each Sunday morning where we remember the last meal that Jesus ate with the disciples by eating bread and drinking grape juice.
- **May I receive Communion?** Yes! Everyone is invited to receive -- we have no barrier to participating in communion.
- **What's a "Doxology"?** Some Sundays we will sing a "doxology" (literally "saying of glory") after we receive the offering. It is a prayer written in 1674 and is popular in Protestant Churches -- plus, we love the words.
- **Do we say the Lord's Prayer together?** We do pray the Lord's Prayer together occasionally on Sunday mornings during the prayer time.
- **What else should I know?** We'd love to share more of our loving and inclusive community with you. At FCC, you'll find all generations worshipping together and participating in church activities. We have activities for kids and youth, and we love to share in community together.
- **Visit our website to donate online, subscribe to our mailing lists, and learn more about us!**  
[www.fccchico.com](http://www.fccchico.com)
- **Masks:** Masks are recommended but not required. Adult and child size masks are available in the Sanctuary as well as hand sanitizer.