



December 10th, 2023 Second Sunday in Advent
 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

10 a.m. Sunday Worship • Ph. 530-343-3727 • chicodisciples@gmail.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 “What Child is This” (String Ensemble)

II. Ringing of the Bell

III. Candle Lighting Liturgy (Lori Adrian)

How does a weary world practice peace?

By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.
 By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

With God’s help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

IV. Welcome and Announcements – (Lori Adrian)

- Today – Fellowship following service
- Monday – 2:30 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel
- Tuesday – 9:30 a.m. Koinonia Krafters, Fireside; 11:30 a.m. Music Jam practice, Room 4
- Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside; 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, Koinonia Hall, Fireside

- Saturday – Noon Ann Nelson Fireside use;
- Sunday – 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Room 6 and Zoom; 10:00 a.m. Worship in sanctuary, Zoom, and FaceBook Live; Fellowship in K-Hall following the service.
- Offerings may be put in the offering plate which is near the bulletins near the entrance of the sanctuary

V. Call to Worship – (Lori Adrian)

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to worship.

I am glad you're here.

I am glad you're here.

Surely God is in this space.

Surely God is in this space.

I see God in your face.

I see God in your face.

Let us worship together.

Let us worship together.

VI. Opening Hymn –CH #125 “Come, O Long Expected Jesus”

(Nancy Thompson)

Come, O long expected Jesus,

Born to set your people free.

From our fears and sins release us;

Christ in whom our rest shall be.

You, our strength and consolation,

Come salvation to impart;

Dear desire of many a nation,

Joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver,

Born a child, and yet a king,

Born to reign in us forever,

Born your gracious realm to bring.

By your own eternal Spirit

Rule in all our hearts alone;

By your all-sufficient merit

Raise us to your glorious throne.

VII. Call to Confession

Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection. The prayer of confession is a place of connection with God.

In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven.

There is no greater joy than that.

So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God.

VIII. Prayer of Confession

God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

Instead of leaning into joy,
we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear.

We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when
shared.

**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
and teach us how to throw open our doors like
Elizabeth.**

**Show us how to find joy in connection.
Amen.**

IX. “The Peace Carol” (The Upbeats)

The branch that bears the bright holly
The dove that rests in yonder tree
The light that shines for all to see
The peace of Christmas Day

X. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School

XI. First Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSV (Lori Adrian)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she
has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she
has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her
sins.

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way
of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for
our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every
mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground
shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then
the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people
shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has
spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What
shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is
like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the
flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows
upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers,
the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand
forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of
good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O

Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

XII. "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" (String Ensemble)

XIII. Second Scripture Reading Luke 1:24-45 (NRSV) (Lori Adrian)

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for

you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped

for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

XIV. Meditation – “We Find Joy in Connection” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XV. Hymn of Invitation and Reflection – CH #170 “How Great Our Joy” (Nancy Thompson)

While by the sheep we watched at night,
lo, there appeared an angel bright:
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

Born is the Child, in manger small,
whom God has sent to save us all.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

Go you this night, and you shall find
the Savior born for humankind.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

Jesus, the gift from heav’n above
fills all our hearts with joy and love.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

XVI. Prayers of the People (Mary Kearns)

XVII. “Happy Christmas, War Is Over” (The Upbeats)

XVIII. Institution of Communion (Max Erwin, and Bill Peterson, elders)

XIX. Partaking Communion Together

XX. “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming” (String Ensemble)

XXI. Blessing/Benediction

XII. Postlude “Joy to the World” (String Ensemble)



- **Christmas Flowers** Once again, we will be decorating the Sanctuary and chapel with poinsettias and holiday flowers. Envelopes are in the pew racks.

The cost is \$12. The last day to order is December 17th.

- **Advent Devotionals! Limited paper copies are now in the Sanctuary!** We will be using Sanctified Art's Advent Devotional "How Does A Weary World Rejoice?" that will have art, poetry, and reflections for Advent in Luke's Gospel. The devotional is 30 pages so we are trying to print only as many as we need. **If you would like one and there aren't any left, please let the church office know (chicodisciples@gmail.com or 530-343-3727) and we'll print one just for you!** Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices—email the church office and we'll send you the link!

Attendance

Attendance for December 3rd, 2023:

In person: 44 Online: 8 Total: 52

Credits

- Bulletin Graphic: "Comfort O Comfort" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- "Come, O Long Expected Jesus" Words: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906
- "How Great Our Joy!" Words: Traditional German carol, alt. Music: Traditional German melody; arr. Hugo Jüngst, c. 1890 Words: Public Domain. Music: Public Domain.
- Hymns Used by Permission. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI Copyright License #37151

This Sunday—Second Sunday in Advent

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

Monday

- 2:30 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel

Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m. Koinonia Krafters, Fireside
- 11:30 a.m. Music Jam, Room 4

Wednesday

- 9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside
- 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, Koinonia Hall, Fireside

Saturday

- Noon Ann Nelson Fireside use

Next Sunday—Guest Preacher Rev. Kacey**Alexander; Third Sunday in Advent; Last day to order Christmas Flowers**

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

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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
- **Masks:** Masks are recommended but not required. Adult and child size masks are available in the Sanctuary as well as hand sanitizer.