



December 31st, 2023 New Year's Eve

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 (Joshua Hegg)

II. Ringing of the Bell

III. Candle Lighting Liturgy (Dave Hoppe)

How does a weary world practice love?

By sending cards, and picking up the phone.

By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others. By learning people's stories and finding common ground.

By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.

There are a million ways to practice love.

So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.

With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.

IV. Welcome and Announcements – (Dave Hoppe)

- Today – Fellowship following service. Evening, North Valley Intergroup New Year's Eve Party, Koinonia Hall and Fireside
- Monday – New Year's Day Church Office Closed
- Tuesday – 11:30 a.m. Music Jam practice, Room 4; 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting, Zoom.
- Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, Koinonia Hall, Fireside.

- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship Breakfast, Cozy Diner; 6:30 p.m. Living the Questions Bible Study, Room 6 and Zoom.
- Saturday--Epiphany
- 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 – (Dave Hoppe)

How does a weary world rejoice?

We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship holy God.

VI. Opening Hymn – #164 Good Christian Friends Rejoice (Joshua Hegg)

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Now you hear of endless bliss; Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ is born for this!
He has opened heaven's door
We are blest for evermore
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

VII. Call to Confession

Family of faith, we all know that a small group of convicted people can change the world. That's how it's always been. People like Mary, people like Zechariah, people like John the Baptist.

And yet, we rarely feel like we can be one of those people. We downplay our ability to make a difference. We choose pessimism over optimism. We sweep hope under the rug for the sake of realism. We forget the words to Mary's song.

Fortunately for us, our God carries enough hope and grace for all of us. So let us go to God in prayer. Let us speak the truth of our lives, and let that honesty change us. Friends, let us pray:

VIII. Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
More days than not, hope feels like the rain.
We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but
eventually, it slips right on through.
Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.
Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to
define tomorrow.
We know that this world needs people of hope, so
today we pray:
turn us into those people.

Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world.

With open hearts we pray, amen.

IX. Affirmation of Faith

We believe
that hope can change the world.

We believe
that God uses ordinary people,
like an unwed teenage mother,
for extraordinary good.

And we believe
that each of these ordinary people
can make a difference.

We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.
We know that suffering quells joy and makes it
harder to hope.

But we choose hope anyway.
In the face of hardship,
we hope together.

We hope with God.
We hope for a better world.

This is our song.
We believe; help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray, amen.

X. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School

XI. First Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (NRSV) (Dave Hoppe)

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

XII. Second Scripture Reading Luke 2:21-38 (NRSV) (Dave Hoppe)

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were

amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

XIII. Meditation – “We Root Ourselves” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIV. Hymn of Invitation and Reflection – CH #167 “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (Joshua Hegg)

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When, lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

XV. Moments for Mission

XVI. Prayers of the People

XVII. Special Music “Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy” (The Upbeats)

XVIII. Communion Song – CH #171 “God’s Love Made Visible” (Joshua Hegg)

God’s love made visible! Incomprehensible!
Christ is invincible! His love shall reign!
From love so bountiful,
blessing uncountable make death surmountable!
His love shall reign!
Joyfully pray for peace and goodwill!
All of our yearning he will fulfill.
Live in a loving way! Praise him for every day!
Open your hearts and pray. His love shall reign!

God gave the Son to us to dwell as one of us--
a blessing unto us! His love shall reign!
To him all honor bring, heaven and earth will sing,
praising our lord and king! His love shall reign!
Open all doors this day of his birth,
all of good will inherit the earth.
His star will always be guiding humanity
throughout eternity! His love shall reign!

XIX. Institution of Communion (Peggy Davidson and Joe Rogers, elders)

XX. Partaking Communion Together

XXI. Blessing/Benediction

XXII. Postlude (Joshua Hegg)

- Upper Room Devotionals for January/February are on the bookshelves in the entrance of the Sanctuary
- January Callers are in the Sanctuary on the tables near the bulletins.

Attendance

Attendance for December 24th, 2023:
Unavailable

Credits

- Bulletin Graphic: “Revelation” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Words: Latin (14th century); tr. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt. Music: German melody (14th century); harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953. Harm. © 1955, renewed 1983, Westminster/John Knox Press. CCLI# 3316896.
- “Go Tell It on the Mountain” Words: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., 1907. Music: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley-Smith, 1986. Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Words: Public Domain. Music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. CCLI# 3063235.
- “God’s Love Made Visible!” Words: Iola Brubeck, 1975 Music: Dave Brubeck, 1975 © 1985 Malcolm Music (BMI), a div. of Shawnee Press, Inc; international copyright secured; all rights reserved; reprinted by permission. CCLI Song # 597093.
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Dec. 31st, 2023—Jan 8th, 2024 **CALENDAR**

This Sunday—New Years’ Eve

- 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
- Evening North Valley Intergroup New Year’s Eve Party, Koinonia Hall

Monday—Happy New Year! Church Office Closed

Tuesday

- 11:30 a.m. Music Jam, Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Church Board meeting, Zoom

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Breakfast, Cozy Diner
- 6:30 p.m. Living the Questions Bible Study, Room 6, Zoom

Saturday—Epiphany

Next Sunday

- 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

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.

