







January 7th, 2024
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
fccchico.com  [fccchico](https://www.facebook.com/fccchico)  [fccchico](https://www.instagram.com/fccchico)  [ChicoFCC](https://twitter.com/ChicoFCC)  [FCCChico](https://www.youtube.com/FCCChico)

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. Installation of New Officers and Elders

IV. Welcome and Announcements – (Amber McGill)

- Today – Fellowship following service. 3:00 p.m. Party to take down the decorations in the Sanctuary
- Tuesday – 9:30 a.m. Koinonia Krafters, Fireside
- Wednesday – Noon Chico Area Interfaith Council, Fireside; 2:00 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel; 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—All Day BSA Scouts Christmas Tree Pick Up, Koinonia Hall, Fireside
- 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 – (Amber McGill)

There are some days when I need the reminder that I
belong to God.

Do you ever feel that way?

Yes. We do.

**The world can be a harsh place; we often need
that reminder.**

Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the
truth we each need to hear. Church, you belong to
God. You are God's beloved.

Friend, you belong to God.

You are God's beloved.

Let us worship the God who knows our names.

Let us worship the God who calls us beloved.

Amen.

VI. Opening Hymn – CH #173 “As With Gladness” (Joshua Hegg)

As with gladness sages bold
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;

so, true Morning Star, may we
evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
One whom heaven and earth adore;
so, may we with willing feet
ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger plain and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you from whom they spring.

VII. Call to Confession

Our scripture passage for today tells the story of
Jesus being baptized. The Gospel of Luke tells us that
the sky opened up and the voice of God was heard
saying, “You are my Son, whom I love; with whom I
am well pleased” (Luke 3:22).

Friends, I don't think that's the only time God has
said words like that. If I understand the promise of
scripture, then I believe God delights in you. God
created you. God loves you with the same passion

that we hear God express in today's scripture.

So trusting that good news,
trusting that we are beloved,
let us go to God in prayer.

For we know that the one who listens, listens with
love.

What greater gift exists than that?

Let us pray:

VIII. Prayer of Confession

Loving God,
From the very beginning, you breathed life into
us and called us good. However, somewhere
along the way we replaced "good" with "not
enough." Somewhere along the way we turned
the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt
our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not
what you have taught us. For when the world tells
us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show
us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let
go of our weariness and rest in that good news.
Amen.

IX. Affirmation of Faith

**I believe that the God I see in scripture is a God
of love.**

**I believe that God created me and delights in that
creation.**

**I believe the psalmist who says, "I am fearfully
and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139)**

**I believe that, just as God called Jesus "beloved,"
God extends this same term of endearment to
us.**

**I believe that no matter our earthly challenges,
nothing could strip me of that sacred title.**

**I could fail every test, miss every goal, drop every
ball, and I would still be God's beloved.**

**Therefore, I cling to this promise like a rock in
the storm.**

**I anchor myself with this good news,
allowing the anxiety of the day to roll over me as
best I can, because I know where I belong.**

I am a child of God.

I am beloved.

I strive to live this way.

Amen.

X. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School

XI. First Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV) (Amber McGill)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in
Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to

Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

XII. Second Scripture Reading Luke 3:21-22 (NRSV) (Amber McGill)

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

XIII. Meditation – “We Trust Our Belovedness” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIV. Hymn of Invitation and Reflection – CH #184 “Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly” (Joshua Hegg)

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, maiden mother, wide and mild.

Sing of God’s own Son most holy, who became her little child.

Fairest child of fairest mother, God incarnate come to earth,

Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary love enduring until death.

Constant was the love he gave her, though it drove
him from her side,
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, till on Calvary
he died.

Joyful mother, full of gladness, in your arms your
Lord was borne.
Mournful mother, full of sadness, all your heart with
pain was torn.
Glorious mother, now rewarded with a crown at
Jesus' hand,
Age to age your name recorded shall be blest in every
land.

XV. Moments for Mission

XVI. Prayers of the People

XVII. Communion Song – CH #183 “We Meet You, O Christ” (Joshua Hegg)

We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;
Your image we see in simple and wise.
You live in a palace, exist in a shack;
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back

In millions alive, away and abroad;
Involved in our life, you live down the road.

Imprisoned in systems, you long to be free;
We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.

In human distress we still hear you cry,
for freedom you march, in riots you die.
Your face in the papers we read and we see.
The tree must be planted by human decree.

You choose to be made at one with the earth;
The dark of the grave prepares for your birth.
Your death is your rising, creative your word;
The tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

XVIII. Institution of Communion (Dave Hoppe and Nancy Morgans-Ferguson, elders)

XIX. Partaking Communion Together

XX. Blessing/Benediction

XXI. 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 31st, 2023:

Sanctuary: 48 Online: 13 Total: 61

Credits

- Bulletin Graphic: “Beloved” by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- “As With Gladness” Words by William C. Dix, 1861, alt. Music Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861 Alt. © 1993 The Pilgrim Press Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain CCLI License #67619.
- “Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly” Words: Roland Ford Palmer, 1938. Music: Joshua Leavitt’s Christian Lyre, 1831.
- “We Meet You, O Christ” Words: Fred Kaan, 1966. Music: Carl F. Schalk, 1987. Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. CCLI Song # 1497439.
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January 7th-14th, 2024

CALENDAR

This 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
- **3:00 p.m. Taking down Sanctuary decorations**

Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m. Koinonia Krafters, Fireside

Wednesday

- Noon Chico Area Interfaith Council, Fireside
- 2:00 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel
- 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

- All day BSA Scouts Christmas Tree Pick up Koinonia Hall, Fireside

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.