



The Least of These

July 23rd, 2023 Guest Preacher Joe Rogers
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 – (Shelley Fairchild and Nancy Thompson)

II. Ringing of the Bell

III. Welcome and Announcements (Bill Peterson)

- Today – Fellowship following service
- Tuesday – 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble Practice in the Chapel.
- Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, K-Hall and Fireside.
- Thursday – 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Room 6 only
- Friday – 1:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Bethany
- Saturday – 6:00 p.m. North Valley Intergroup Speaker Meeting, K-hall.
- Sunday – 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds; 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary, Zoom, and FaceBook Live; Fellowship in K-Hall following the service
- Offerings may be put in the collection plate which is near the bulletins near the entrance of the Sanctuary

IV. Opening Hymn – CH #56 “For the Beauty of the Earth” (Nancy Thompson)

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of ear and eye
For the heart and mind's delight
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above

Offering up on every shore
one pure sacrifice of love

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

V. Call to Worship – (Bill Peterson)

We come to worship God, not to boast in ourselves.
**Our wisdom, our might, our wealth—all these are
gifts from God.**

If we must boast, then let us boast in this:

**We come, to understand and know God, to honor
God's sovereign majesty.**

God acts with steadfast love, justice, and
righteousness in the earth.

In these things God takes delight.

Come, let us worship God.

VI. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School

VII. Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Laughing Bird Version (Bill Peterson)

You have taken a good hard look at me, LORD,
and you know exactly what makes me tick.

You know when I've got my feet up and when I'm on
the job;
you can read my mind like an open book.

You see where I am going and where I stop,
and you know all about what I do and why.

You know exactly what I am going to say, LORD,
even before I open my mouth.

You are in front of me, behind me, beside me;
your hand on my shoulder at every turn.

All this is more than I can get my head around;
I pinch myself, and struggle to take it in.

Could I hide from your spirit if I wanted to?
Is there anywhere I could go to escape you?

If I sped into outer space, you'd be there;
if I curled up in the bowels of the earth, you'd be
there.

If I took to the skies and pursued the dawn;
crossed the globe and never came back;
I'd be no further from your reach;
you'd hold me tight and guide me just as easily.

If I hide in the shadows
and plead with the darkness to cover me,
you can still see me as clear as day,
for light and dark are all the same to you.

Take a good hard look at me, God;
check me out and read my thoughts.
Dig out anything corrupt in me,
and set my feet on the tracks that have proven true.

VIII. Matthew 25: 31-46 (NRSV)– (Bill Peterson)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the
angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his
glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and
he will separate people one from another as a
shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he
will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at
the left. Then the king will say to those at his right
hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the
foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you
gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me
something to drink, I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison
and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer
him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and

gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

IX. Sermon - “The Least of These” (Joe Rogers)

X. Song of Meditation – CP #49 “Sanctuary” x3 (Nancy Thompson)

Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary

Pure and holy
Tried and true
With thanksgiving
I’ll be a living
Sanctuary for You

XI. Moments for Mission “Living the Questions” video (Corky LeTellier)

XII. Prayers of the People

XIII. Communion Song CH #395 “Seed, Scattered and Sown” (Nancy Thompson)

Seed, scattered and sown, wheat gathered and grown
Bread broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of
God.

Vine, fruit of the land, wine work of our hands
One cup that is shared by all; the Living Cup, the
Living Bread of God.

The seed which falls on rock,
will wither and will die.
The seed within good ground
will flower and have life.

Seed, scattered and sown, wheat gathered and grown
Bread broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of
God.

Vine, fruit of the land, wine work of our hands
One cup that is shared by all; the Living Cup, the
Living Bread of God.

Is not the bread we break
A sharing in our Lord?
Is not the cup we bless
The Blood of Christ outpoured?

Seed, scattered and sown, wheat gathered and grown
Bread broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of
God.

Vine, fruit of the land, wine work of our hands
One cup that is shared by all; the Living Cup, the
Living Bread of God

As wheat upon the hills
Was gathered and was grown
So may the church of God
Be gathered into one

Seed, scattered and sown, wheat gathered and grown
Bread broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of
God.

Vine, fruit of the land, wine work of our hands
One cup that is shared by all; the Living Cup, the
Living Bread of God

**XIV. Institution of Communion (Nancy Morgans
-Ferguson, Kevin Zeitler, elders)**

XV. Partaking Communion Together

XVI. Blessing/Benediction (Joe Rogers)

**XVII. Postlude – (Shelley Fairchild and Nancy
Thompson)**

**Recommendations to the Nominating Task
Force:** Recommendations to the Nominating Task
Force hand outs are in the Sanctuary, next to the
bulletins, are on the next pages of this bulletin, and
available on our website fccchico.com on the
homepage. They can be returned in the offering plate
on Sunday mornings, or sent to the church office by
email, or mail.

Recommendations to the Nominating Task Force Church Officers for 2024

We, the Nominating Committee, request that all members of First Christian Church, Chico seriously and prayerfully recommend those persons you believe should be asked to consider a leadership position. Indicate those names below. You may put it in the collection plate, drop it by the office or mail it to the church.

Your participation in this process is important and we appreciate your input. Please respond now while it is fresh in your mind. **Please consider the desired Leadership qualities and gifts for serving as listed below:**

Board Moderator: Be objective and able to listen to all sides; open to hearing all perspectives and ideas; able to keep a meeting on the subject at hand; be a calming influence.

Vice-Moderator: In the absence of the Board Moderator, presides at congregational and Church Board meetings and carries out all other duties of the Board Moderator. Appoints a chair of the Diaconate and assists with recruitment and training of the Diaconate. Oversees the Elders and Personnel Committee.

Board Secretary: Able to hear what is being said at the meeting, and record the meeting activities and actions.

Church Treasurer: Timely payment of bills; correct errors in a timely manner; work closely with leadership; be transparent and open; must maintain confidentiality.

Congregational Life Ministry Coordinator: Coordinates the Christian education, membership, worship arts, fellowship and program ministries.

Outreach Ministry Coordinator: Coordinates evangelism, missional outreach, and Regional/General Church relations.

Administrative Ministry Coordinator: Coordinates the administrative ministries of the church including business and property.

At Large Board Member: Interested in the life of the church, and committed to its future thriving.

Elders: Willing to help care for the spiritual needs of the congregation, as a part of the shared ministry of the church; committed to being equipped and to equip others; have a desire to grow spiritually, and to help others grow in their faith.

Financial Secretary: A numbers person; confidential, organized and efficient.

Ass't. Financial Secretary: Same as Financial Secretary.

Personnel Committee Member: Able to look at staff as employees; have an understanding and experience in business practices; listen to congregational concerns; work closely and communicate with the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Endowment Trustee: An understanding of financial practices; has a passion for developing planned giving programs within the congregation.

—Nominating Committee

I prayerfully recommend...

Board Moderator	_____

Vice Moderator	_____

Board Secretary	_____

Church Treasurer	_____

Congregational Life Ministry Coordinator:	_____

Outreach Ministry Coordinator:	_____

Administrative Ministry Coordinator:	_____

At Large Board Member	_____

Elder	_____

Financial Secretary	_____

Asst. Financial Secretary	_____

Personnel Committee	_____

Endowment Trustee	_____

From the FCC Bylaws, Article VII Section C: Additional nominees for any office may be made from the congregation in this manner: With the approval of the nominee, a petition signed by at least ten (10) active members shall be in the hands of the nominating committee at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the annual election. If such additional nominations are made, the committee shall announce to the congregation the revised slate, including all nominees for each vacancy.

Please return the completed form either by the collection plate on Sunday morning, dropping it off at the church office, or mailing it to the church. Thank you!



INTRODUCING LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2.0

LiQ2 is the completely revised and expanded version of *Living the Questions* – the popular DVD and web-based introduction to progressive Christianity. Featuring 30 of today’s leading religious voices.

SESSIONS BEGIN SOON:

WHERE: First Christian Church Chico, Room 6 (not online)

WHEN: Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. starting July 27th, 2023

CONTACT: Georgia Nelson, (530) 632-4372. Or just come.
We'll have cookies!

resourcing progressive Christians™
www.livingthequestions.com

Attendance

Attendance for July 16th, 2023:

Online: 9 Sanctuary: 45 Total: 54

Credits

- Bulletin graphic: Photo by [Dimi Katsavaris](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- “Sanctuary” Words and Music: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs. © 1982 Full Armor Publishing Company; Whole Armor Publishing Company. CCLI Song # 24140
- “For the Beauty of the Earth” Words: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861. Words: Public Domain. Music: Public Domain.
- Laughing Bird Psalm text ©2002 Nathan Nettleton [LaughingBird.net](#)
- “Seed, Scattered and Sown” Words: Dan Feiten, 1987. Music: Dan Feiten, 1987; arr. Eric Gunnison and R.J. Miller, alt. © 1987 Ekklesia Music, Inc. CCLI# 1187639
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This Sunday—Guest Preacher Joe Rogers

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

Tuesday

- 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- 6:30 p.m. Living the Questions 2.0 Bible Study, Room 6, First day! (in person only)

Friday

- 1:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Bethany

Saturday

- 6:00 p.m. North Valley Intergroup Comedy Night/ Speaker Meeting, Koinonia Hall

Next Sunday—Guest Preacher Kevin Zeitler

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

Pastor Jesse will be on Sabbatical
June 26th through September 17th

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.