

## God Forbid



March 10th, 2024—Fourth Sunday in Lent  
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](mailto: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. Welcome and Announcements – (Mary Kearns)

- Today – Fellowship following service in Koinonia Hall.
- Please see the back of your bulletins for the calendar.
- Offerings may be put in the offering plate which is near the bulletins near the entrance of the sanctuary.

### IV. Call to Worship – (Mary Kearns)

On our worst days,

**God is good.**

On our best days,

**God is good.**

When life is consistent,

**God is good.**

And when life turns on its head,

**God is good.**

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

**God is good. God is here. God is love.**

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

## V. Opening Hymn – “When the Saints Go Marching In” (Upbeats)

Oh, when the saints (when the saints),  
go marching in (go marching in),  
Oh when the saints go marching in (saints go  
marching in),  
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number,  
When the saints go marching in.

Oh, when the saints (when the saints),  
Go marching in (go marching in),  
When the saints go marching in (saints go marching  
in),  
Oh yes, I want to be in that number,  
When the saints go marching in.

Oh when the sun (when the sun),  
Refuse to shine (refuse to shine),  
Oh when the sun refuse to share (refuse to shine),  
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number  
Oh when the sun refuse to shine.

Oh, when the saints (when the saints),  
Go marching in (go marching in),  
When the saints go marching in (saints go marching  
in),  
Oh yes, I want to be in that number,  
When the saints go marching in.

Oh when they crown (when they crown),  
Him Lord of all (him Lord of all),  
Oh when they crown Him Lord of all (Him Lord of  
all),  
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number,  
When they crown Him Lord of all.

Oh when they gather (when they gather).  
Around the throne (around the throne),  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number,  
When they gather around the throne.

Oh, when the saints (when the saints),  
Go marching in (go marching in),  
When the saints go marching in (saints go marching  
in),  
Oh yes, I want to be in that number,  
When the saints go marching in.

## VI. Call to Confession

There’s a moment in our scripture today when Jesus  
turns to Peter, named “the rock” of the church,  
and says, “Get behind me, Satan!” I don’t know  
about you all, but that’s a pretty bad day for Peter.  
It’s a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan!  
Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with  
the knowledge that even Peter made mistakes.

Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus' right-hand man, made mistakes just like me.  
And still, Jesus chose him.  
Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change.  
Join me in prayer—

## VII. Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,**  
**We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.**  
**Like Peter, we want to yell out, “This should not happen!”**  
**We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.**  
**We want to hold your world in our hands.**  
**Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.**  
**Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.**  
**Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many.**  
**Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.**  
**With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.**

## VIII. Words of Forgiveness

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in,  
no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God,

no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—  
we worship a God of grace.  
Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart.  
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.  
We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven.  
Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world.  
Amen.

## IX. Affirmation of Faith

I believe in a God of second chances,  
**a God who sees through my stubbornness and holds my fear with tenderness.**  
I believe that this God of second chances uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.  
**Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.**  
I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible.  
I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.  
**This change is holy and important work, although challenging.**

**When fear and scarcity plague me,  
or when the impossible feels out of reach,  
I believe that God meets me with grace and  
invites me to follow.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

**Amen.**

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

### **XI. Scripture Reading Matthew 16:21-33 (NRSV) (Mary Kearns)**

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the

Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

### **XII. Sermon – “God Forbid” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)**

### **XIII. Hymn of Invitation – “Put Your Hand In the Hand” (Upbeats)**

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the  
water,

Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed  
the sea.

Take a look at yourself, and you can look at others  
differently,

By putting’ your hand in the hand of the man from  
Galilee!

Every time I look, into the holy book I want to  
tremble,

When I read about the part where the carpenter  
cleared the temple.

For the buyers and the sellers were no different fellas  
Than what I profess to be,

And it cases me shame to know

We’re not the people we should be!

So put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled  
the water,  
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed  
the sea.  
Take a look at yourself, and you can look at others  
differently,  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from  
Galilee!

Mamma taught me how to pray before I reached the  
age of seven  
She said, "there'll come a time when there'll probably  
be room in heaven"  
But I'm feeling kinda guilty 'bout the number of  
times to do what we must do.  
But we forget what he said when we figured that he'd  
still make room!

So put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled  
the water,  
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed  
the sea.  
Take a look at yourself, and you can look at others  
differently,  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from  
Galilee!

#### **XIV. Moments for Mission: Barbara Poetker, Prayer Shawls**

#### **XV. Prayers of the People**

#### **XVI. Communion Song – “By the Rivers of Babylon” (Upbeats)**

By the Rivers of Babylon, where he sat down  
And there he wept. When he remembered Zion  
Oh from the wicked, carry us away from captivity  
Require from us this song  
How can we sing King Alpha's song in a strange land?

So let the words of our mouth  
And a meditation of our hearts  
Be acceptable in they sight  
Oh – Verail!

By the Rivers of Babylon, where he sat down  
And there he wept...when he remembered Zion  
Oh from the wicked, carry us away from captivity  
Require from us this song  
How can we sing King Alpha's song in a strange land?  
How can we sing King Alpha's song in a strange...  
land.

#### **XVII. Institution of Communion (Max Erwin and Dave Hoppe, elders)**

#### **XVIII. Partaking Communion Together**

**XIX. Blessing/Benediction**

**XX. Postlude (Joshua Hegg)**

**Easter Flowers** Once again, we will be decorating the Sanctuary with seasonal flowers. Envelopes are in the pew racks. The cost is \$12. The deadline to order flowers is Palm Sunday, March 24th.

**Attendance**

Sanctuary: 54      Online: 14      Total: 68

**Credits**

- “Beseeching by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
- 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—Fourth Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time Begins**

- 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

**Tuesday**

- 9:30 a.m. Koinonia Krafters, Fireside
- 1:00 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel

**Wednesday**

- Noon Chico Area Interfaith Council, Fireside
- 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper, Faith Lutheran Church
- 6:00 p.m. BSA Scouts, Koinonia Hall and Fireside

**Thursday**

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Breakfast, Cozy Diner
- 11:30 a.m. Music Practice, Room 4
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Room 6 and [Zoom](#)

**Friday**

- 3:00 p.m. Crafting Companions, Room 6

**Saturday**

- 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, Spiritual Care Center

**Next Sunday—Fifth Sunday of Lent**

- 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](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.