

Who Sinned?

March 19th, 2023

Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

First Christian Church Chico

(Disciples of Christ)



AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE

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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. Welcome and Announcements – (Gary Cantwell)

- Today – Fellowship following service.
- Tuesday – 11:30 a.m. Music jam in Room 4; 2:00 p.m. WICS in Bethany Room, 7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting on Zoom.
- Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. PEO in Fireside; 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Service and Soup Supper at Faith Lutheran Church; 7:00 p.m. Scouts in K-Hall and Fireside
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner; 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble practice in chapel; 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study in Room 6 and on Zoom.
- Friday – 1:00 p.m. Healing Circle in Bethany Room.
- 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

III. Opening Hymn – CH #581 “Near to the Heart of God”

There is a place of quiet rest
near to the heart of God,
a place where sin cannot molest,
near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before you
near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet
near to the heart of God,
a place where we our Savior meet,
near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before you
near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release
near to the heart of God,
a place where all is joy and peace,
near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before you
near to the heart of God.

IV. Call to Worship – (Gary Cantwell)

Scripture is full of questions...

Where are you?

Am I my brother's keeper?

Whom shall I send?

Who do you say that I am?

Who sinned?

How many times shall I forgive?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Scripture is full of questions,

so just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our
full curiosity and wonder into this space.

Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

V. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School

VI. Call to Confession (Gary Cantwell)

Who here has sinned?

We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignore people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We are in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives.

When you lose your way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Have you sinned?

I have sinned. I put my head in the sand. I ignore people in need. I make false assumptions and fail to be kind. I, too, am in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

VII. John 9:1-41 NRSV – (Gary Cantwell)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know,

that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do

see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

VIII. Sermon - “Who Sinned?” (Jesse Kearns)

IX. Song of Invitation – CH #546 “Amazing Grace” (Joshua Hegg)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
‘tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
than when we’d first begun.

X. An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a merciful God,
**a God who does not keep score,
a God who wants good for us.**
We believe in a creative God,
**a God who would heal with mud,
a God capable of seeing what we cannot.**
We believe in a saving God,
**a God who heals,
a God who greets our questions with
patience, a God who sends us out with hope
in our step.**

What wondrous love is this. Amen.

XI. Prayers of the People (Jesse Kearns)

XII. Communion Song CP #73 “More Love, More Power” (Joshua Hegg)

More love, more power,
More of you in my life
More love, more power,
More of you in my life

And I will worship you with all of my heart
And I will worship you with all of my mind;
And I will worship you with all of my strength
You are my Lord, you are my Lord.

More love, more power,
More of you in my life
More love, more power,
More of you in my life

And I will worship you with all of my heart
And I will worship you with all of my mind;
And I will worship you with all of my strength
You are my Lord, you are my Lord.

XIII. Institution of Communion (Georgeanne Bennett and Nancy Morgans-Ferguson)

XIV. Partaking Communion Together

XV. Blessing/Benediction

XVI. Postlude – (Joshua Hegg)

Easter Flowers

Once again, we will be decorating the Sanctuary and chapel with seasonal flowers. Envelopes are in the pew racks. **The cost is \$12. Deadline to order flowers is Palm Sunday, April 2nd.**

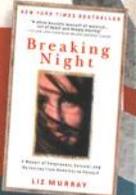
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March 19th-26th, 2023

CALENDAR

This Sunday

- 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

- 11:30 a.m. Music Jam, Room 4
- 2:00 p.m. WICS, Bethany
- 7:00 p.m. Elders, on [Zoom](#)

Wednesday

- 9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside
- 6:00 p.m. Scouts, Koinonia Hall, Fireside
- 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper, and Service, Faith Lutheran

Thursday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner
- 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble Rehearsals, Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study, 6/Zoom

Friday

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

Next Sunday

- 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



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Upcoming Events

- Wednesdays, March 1st-29th, Ecumenical Lenten Soup Suppers and Service, 6 pm
 - We will be serving Soup on March 8th so bring soups around 5:45 pm to Faith Lutheran
- Palm Sunday, April 2nd
- Maundy Thursday, April 6th, 7 pm service in Fireside
- Easter Sunday, April 9th, Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. service, followed by fellowship hosted by the Elders, with an egg hunt and gift bags for children.
- Pentecost in the Park, May 21st, Wildwood Park

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.