





March 31st, 2024—Easter Sunday  
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

## II. Ringing of the Bell

## III. Welcome and Announcements (Max Erwin)

- Today – Special fellowship following service in Koinonia Hall with an Easter Egg Hunt for children.
- Monday—Church Office Closed for Easter Monday
- No Bible Study until April 11th
- 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. Opening Hymn – CH #216 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (Nancy Thompson)

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia  
All creation join to say, Alleluia  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia  
Sing O heavens and earth reply, Alleluia

Lives again our glorious king, Alleluia  
Where, O death, is now your sting, Alleluia  
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia

## V. Dedication of Liliana McGill

### VI. "This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No,  
I'm going to let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No,  
I'm going to let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out,

I'm going to let it shine.  
Don't let anyone blow it out,  
I'm going to let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## VII. Call to Worship (Max Erwin)

Yesterday we thought death had won.  
Yesterday we thought all was lost.  
Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

**But not today.**

**Today we know that love has won.**

**Today we know that hope is real.**

**Today we know that Christ is here.**

We have a reason to hope.

**We have a reason to sing!**

Alleluia!

**Alleluia!**

Christ is risen today.

## VIII. Call to Confession

In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise, instead of finding Jesus, they find angels. The angels tell the women, "Jesus is not here," and when that answer is met with confusion, the angels say, "Remember what he told you."

Remember. It's one of the words Jesus used at his last

supper, and it's one of the first words we hear at the empty tomb. Remember.

I think this call to remember is why we need the prayer of confession and these words of forgiveness every single week. It's not enough to hear of God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out.

So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb. Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember.

Join me in the prayer of confession:

### **IX. Prayer of Confession**

The stone is rolled away!

**We assume it is a mistake.**

The angels say, "He is not here!"

**We assume their news is fake.**

The women tell the story,

**but we do not want to hear it.**

Peter runs to the tomb,

**but we do not understand.**

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb

is nothing more than a prank.

**Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death.**

Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world.

**Teach us to see what you see.**

Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

**Amen.**

### **X. Words of Forgiveness**

The angels tell the women, "*Remember* what Jesus told you."

So, church, remember this:

You are seen.

You are forgiven.

You are held in God's grace.

All of this is true.

Grace and mercy abound for you.

*Remember this.*

Amen!

### **XI. Affirmation of Faith**

**We may weep through the longest nights.**

**We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.**

**We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.**

**But today, we are a people of hope.**

**We believe in new beginnings.**

**We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.**

**We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.**

**We believe that a tomb could not hold him.**

**We believe that the sun does rise.**

**We believe that Peter was there with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.**

**We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us.**

**Today we are a people of hope.**

**XII. Children Fourth Grade and Under  
Dismissed for Sunday School**

**XIII. Scripture Reading Luke 24:1-12 (NRSV)  
(Max Erwin)**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly

two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

**XIV. Sermon – “And I Hope” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)**

**XV. Song Invitation – CH #224 “Christ Arose!” (Nancy Thompson)**

Low in the grave he lay,  
Jesus, my Savior,  
Waiting the coming day,  
Jesus, my Lord!

Up from the grave he arose,  
With a mighty triumph o’er his foes,

he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
And he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch his bed,  
Jesus, my Savior;  
Vainly they seal the dead,  
Jesus, my Lord!

Up from the grave he arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes,  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
And he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Death cannot keep its prey,  
Jesus, my Savior;  
he tore the bars away,  
Jesus, my Lord!

Up from the grave he arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes,  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
And he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

## **XVI. Moments for Mission**

## **XVII. Prayers of the People**

## **XVIII. Communion Song CH #227 "In the Garden" (Nancy Thompson)**

I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses

And he walks with me  
And he talks with me  
And he tells me I am his own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known

He speaks and the sound of his voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing  
And the melody that he gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing

And he walks with me  
And he talks with me  
And he tells me I am his own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known

I'd stay in the garden with him  
Though the night around me be falling  
But he bids me go; through the voice of woe  
His voice to me is calling.

And he walks with me  
And he talks with me  
And he tells me I am his own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known

#### **XIV. Institution of Communion (Gary Cantwell and Dave Hoppe, elders)**

#### **XV. Partaking Communion Together**

#### **XVI. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Jesse Kearns)**

#### **XVII. Postlude**



**The Sanctuary flowers were given  
today to glorify the Lord and in loving  
tribute to family and friends.**

#### **Given by**

Lisa Blann  
Tom Shifflet

Story Family

Corky LeTellier

Lori Terrell-Adrian  
Georgeanne Bennett  
& Bob Johnson

Nancy Thompson

Richard & Molly Meade *In memory of Barbara Meade (wife & mother)*

Marie Grandeen

Lowell & Diane Terrell *In celebration of our family and our church family*

#### **Celebrating or in memory of...**

*In memory of my dad, Sankey Hall*

*In honor of my family and friends*

*In memory of my wife Anne*

*In memory of all our family members*

*In celebration of all our family members*

*In honor of Mary Wood*

*In honor of Mason LeTellier*

*In honor of David Hamachek*

*In celebration of my family*

*In honor of Elva Johnson*

*In honor of Martha Bennett*

## Attendance for March 24th, 2024

Sanctuary: 37 Online: 13 Total: 50

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## March 31st-April 7th, 2024

## CALENDAR

### This Sunday—Easter Sunday

- 6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service
- No Sacred Grounds today
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Special Fellowship with Easter Egg Hunt for children, Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

### Monday—Church Office closed for Easter Monday

### Tuesday

- 1:00 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Church Board meeting, Zoom

### Wednesday

- 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
- No Bible Study this week

### Friday

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

### 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](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.