



We Are Called Forward

**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**



December 14th, 2025—3rd Sunday of Advent

Pastor Rev. Jesse Kearns

10 a.m. Sunday Worship • (530) 343-3727 • chicodisciples@gmail.com
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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 “O Come All Ye Faithful” (De Colores Strings)

II. Ringing of the Bell

III. Welcome and Announcements (Georgia Nelson)

- Today – Fellowship in Koinonia Hall following worship; Pick up your Advent Devotional on the tables near the bulletins
- Monday is the deadline to submit articles to our monthly newsletter, *The Caller*
- Tuesday – 10:45 a.m. Music Practice in Room 4; 2 p.m. DWM meeting in Bethany; 3 p.m. Butte County Children Services Winter Wonderland in Koinonia Hall; 7:00 p.m. Elders’ hybrid meeting in the Chapel and on Zoom
- Wednesday – 10 a.m. Uplift Boutique in Room 10
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at the Cozy Diner
- Friday – 3:30 p.m. Independent Living Program in Fireside
- Saturday—10 a.m. Uplift Boutique in Room 10; 3 p.m. BSA Christmas Gathering, Fireside
- Please see the back of your bulletins for the calendar

- Offerings may be put on the offering plate near the bulletins near the sanctuary's entrance

IV. Call to Worship (Georgia Nelson)

Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

Mary said, "How can this be?"

We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God's invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God.
Amen!

V. Greeting One Another

VI. Candle Lighting Liturgy

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents.

We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

[Light candle.]

Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.

VII. Opening Hymn – CH #129 “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” (Nancy Thompson)

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates;
Behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! We open wide
Our hearts to you; here Christ abide!
Let us your inner presence feel,
Your grace and love in us reveal.

So come, our Sovereign; enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin;
Your Holy Spirit guide us on,
Until the glorious crown be won.

VIII. Call to Confession

Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on.

But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all.

So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray.

IX. Prayer of Confession

**Courageous God,
you invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,”
we often hide our face.
We dig our heels in.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making
a difference.
Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are
not alone.
You invite us forward.
With baby steps we hope,
we pray,
amen.**

X. Children in Fifth Grade and Under are Dismissed for Sunday School

XI. Jeremiah 1:4-10 (NRSVUE) (Georgia Nelson)

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the LORD said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

XII. Luke 1:26-38 (NRSVUE) (Georgia Nelson)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for

you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

XIII. Sermon – “We Are Called Forward” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIV. Song of Invitation – CH #164 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (Nancy Thompson)

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say: News! News!

Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Now you hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ is born for this!
He has opened heaven's door
We are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

XV. Moments for Mission

XVI. Prayers of the People (Mary Kearns) “Appalachian Carol” (Nancy Thompson & Shelley Fairchild)

XV. Communion Song-- CH #386 “We Come as Guests Invited” (Nancy Thompson)

We come as guests invited
when Jesus bids us dine,
His friends on earth united
to share the bread and wine;
The bread of life is broken,
the wine is freely poured
For us, in solemn token
of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving
from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing
on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving
for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living
our ever-present friend.

One bread is ours for sharing,
one single, fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring
renewed in bread and wine:
renewed, sustained, and given
by token, sign, and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven,
the love of Christ our Lord.

XVI. Institution of Communion (Kevin Zeitler, elder)

XVII. Partaking Communion Together “What Child Is This?” (De Colores Strings)

XVIII. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIX. Postlude “Christmas Medley” (Nancy Thompson & Shelley Fairchild)

FAQ, Attendance, and Credits are on the insert

- **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 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 subscribe to our mailing lists, see a map of our facility, donate online, and learn more about us!**
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- **Deadlines:** Sunday Bulletin-Wednesdays, 10 am; Callerito weekly email-Thursday 10 am; Caller, monthly newsletter-15th at noon.

Attendance for December 7th, 2025

Online: 12 Sanctuary: 43

Total: 55

- Graphic: “Mary’s Yes” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” Words: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt. Music: Psalmody Evangelica, 1789. Text revisions courtesy of United Church Board for Homeland Ministries/The Pilgrim Press. Public Domain. CCLI# 1863214
- “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Words: Latin (14th century); tr. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt. Music: German melody (14th century); harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953. Harm. © 1955, renewed 1983, Westminster/John Knox Press. CCLI# 3316896
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Calendar for December 7th-14th, 2025

This Sunday—3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 & on Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary & Worship Streamed Live on Zoom & Facebook
- Fellowship, in Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

Monday—Deadline to submit articles to our monthly newsletter, *The Caller*

Tuesday

- 10:45 a.m. Music Practice
- 2:00 p.m. Disciples Women's Ministry, Bethany
- 3:00 p.m. Butte County Children Services' Winter Wonderland, Koinonia Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Elders' Hybrid Meeting, Chapel and Zoom

Wednesday

- 10:00 a.m. Uplift Boutique (Free Family Resource)
- 6:00 p.m. BSA Troop 2, Koinonia Hall & Fireside

Thursday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner
- 5:30 p.m. BSA Pack 2, Koinonia Hall & Fireside

Friday

- 3:30 p.m. Northern California Youth & Family, Fireside

Saturday

- 10:00 a.m. Uplift Boutique (Free Family Resource)
- 3:00 p.m. BSA Christmas Gathering, Fireside

Next Sunday—4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 & on Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary & Worship Streamed Live on Zoom & Facebook
- Fellowship, in Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

Advent Devotionals are near the bulletins!