



April 30th, 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 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” – (The Upbeats)

II. Welcome and Announcements (Kevin Zeitler)

- Today – Fellowship following service.
- Monday – 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble in Chapel
- Tuesday – No music jam this week! 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting on Zoom.
- Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. Scouts in K-Hall and Fireside.
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship team meeting at Cozy Diner.
- Saturday – All Day, Anne Nelson in Fireside Room; 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, Spiritual Care Center.
- Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds; 10:00 a.m. Worship in sanctuary, Zoom and FaceBook Live; Fellowship in Fireside 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 – CP #37 “Open the Eyes of My Heart” (The Upbeats)

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Lord, pour out Your pow'r and love
As we sing holy holy holy
Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

IV. Call to Worship – (Kevin Zeitler)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he
leads me beside still waters; he restores my
soul.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I
fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup
overflows.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house
of the Lord my whole life long.**

**V. Children fourth grade and under dismissed for
Sunday School**

VI. Call to Confession and Prayer of Forgiveness
-- (Kevin Zeitler)

God, our shepherd, be with us in our need. Like sheep who have gone astray—

We have not heeded your voice, calling us to follow the right paths, beckoning us to lie down and be restored;

We have acted as if our salvation lies in busyness and control.

We do not want to be sheep— dependent on a shepherd for everything.

We want to do it alone— to maintain our independence.

Forgive us for rejecting your shepherding care and your love and guidance.

Forgive us for our need to do it by ourselves, to be separate from the flock.

Forgive us for doubting your presence in times of trouble.

Forgive us our despair in the face of seemingly unrelenting evil and death.

Lead us back to the path of life. Amen.

Jesus said, I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly.

In so confessing, we have returned to the shepherd, the guardian of our souls who welcomes us with open arms and a glad heart.

Know that the shepherd of our lives never abandons us, is always calling our name, and unfailingly loves and forgives us.

VII. John 10:1-11 NRSV – (Kevin Zeitler)

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to

them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'

VIII. Sermon - "Through the Gate" (Jesse Kearns)

IX. Song of Invitation – CP #128 "Cry of My Heart" (The Upbeats)

It is the cry of my heart to follow you
It is the cry of my heart to be close to you
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life

It is the cry of my heart to follow you
It is the cry of my heart to be close to you
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life

Teach me your holy ways, O Lord
So I can walk in your truth
Teach me your holy ways, O Lord
And make me wholly devoted to you.

It is the cry of my heart to follow you
It is the cry of my heart to be close to you
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life

Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that you do
Open my heart up more and more
And make it wholly devoted to you

It is the cry of my heart to follow you
It is the cry of my heart to be close to you
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life
All of the days of my life
All of the days of my life

X. Moment for Missions – Report on Annual Gathering (Jesse Kearns)

XI. Prayers of the People (Mary Kearns)

XII. Communion Song CP #70 "In the Secret" (The Upbeats)

In the secret, in the quiet place
In the stillness, you are there
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait only for you
'Cause I want to know you more.

I want to know you
I want to hear your voice
I want to know you more
I want to touch you
I want to see your face
I want to know you more

I am reaching, for the highest goal
That I might receive the prize
Pressing onward, pushing ev'ry hindrance aside out of
my way
'Cause I want to know you more

I want to know you
I want to hear your voice
I want to know you more
I want to touch you
I want to see your face
I want to know you more

I want to know you
I want to hear your voice
I want to know you more

XIII. Institution of Communion (Georgeanne Bennett and Georgia Nelson, elders)

XIV. Partaking Communion Together

XV. Blessing/Benediction

XVI. Postlude – (Joshua Hegg)

Credits

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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

Monday

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

Tuesday

- No Music Jam this week
- 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting, on [Zoom](#)

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner

Saturday

- All Day Ann Nelson, Fireside
- 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Grief Group, Spiritual Care Center

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

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.