

Hanging Between Heaven and Earth



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHICO
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

August 8th, 2021

AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE

Wifi Network: FirstChicoSecure Password: bloom7594diesel
Ph. 530-343-3727 • chicodisciples@gmail.com • fccchico.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 – (Nancy Thompson)

II. Welcome and Announcements - (Pastor Jesse)

- Zoom Check-In on Tuesday at 1:00
- No Music Jam this week
- Sacred Grounds, 9:00 next Sunday
- Worship, 10:00 in the sanctuary, Zoom and FaceBook Live

IV. Opening Hymn – CH #463 “Renew Your Church” (Nancy Thompson)

Renew your church, our ministries restore: both to serve
and adore

Make us again as salt throughout the land, and as light
from a stand

Mid somber shadows of the night, where greed and
hatred spread their blight

O let our hearts with love be stirred, help us God, be
renewed

Teach us your word, reveal its truth divine, on our path
let its shine

Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace, from
each page show your face

As you have sent your Christ to save, in love to triumph
o'er the grave

O let our hearts with love be stirred, help us God, know
your word

Teach us to pray, for you are ever near, your still voice
let us hear

Our souls are restless 'til they rest in you: Love's
design ever new

Before your presence keep us still that we may find
for us your will

And seek your guidance every day. Teach us, God,
how to pray

Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind,
each and all – humankind

Break down old walls of prejudice and hate, leave us
not to our fate

As you have loved and giv'n your life to end hostility
and strife

O share your grace from heav'n above, teach us, God,
how to love.

V. Call to Worship – (Mary Kearns)

All who are gathered here this day are welcome in the
sight of the Lord.

**We come from times of stress and worry, needing
God's healing love.**

Come to this place of healing and feeding.

Christ bids us welcome!

From the worries of our lives

Christ bids us welcome!

From the things that draw us down and away,

Christ bids us welcome!

Let your celebration begin!

**Open our hearts, O Lord, and make us ready for
your words to us. AMEN.**

VI. Children's Moment

VII. 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 14-15, 31-33 NRSV – (Mary Kearns)

The king gave orders to Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.' And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that

day than the sword. Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. Joab said, 'I will not waste time like this with you.' He took three spears in his hand, and thrust them into the heart of Absalom, while he was still alive in the oak. And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

Then the Cushite came (to David); and the Cushite said, 'Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.' The king said to the Cushite, 'Is it well with the young man Absalom?' The Cushite answered, 'May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.' The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, 'O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would that I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!'

VIII. Sermon - "Hanging Between Heaven and Earth" (Pastor Jesse)

IX. Song of Invitation – CH #82 "His Eye is on the Sparrow" (Nancy Thompson)

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the
 shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven
 and home
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches
 me.

Let not your heart be troubled, his tender word I
 hear
And resting on his goodness I lose my doubt and
 fears
Though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches
 me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise
When song gives place to sighing when hope within
 me dies

I draw the closer to him, for care he sets me free:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches
me.

X. Moment for Mission – (Surprise)

XI. Prayers of the People – (Mary Kearns)

XII. Communion Song CH #351 “Fill My Cup, Lord” (Nancy Thompson)

Like the woman at the well, I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy
And then I heard my savior speaking;
“Draw from my well that never shall run dry”

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of heaven feed me ‘til I want no more –
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

There are millions in this world who are craving
The pleasures earthly things afford;
But none can match the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord.

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of heaven feed me ‘til I want no more –
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

So my friend if all the things this world gave you
Leave hungers that won't pass away
My blessed Lord will come and save you,
If you kneel to him and humbly pray

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of heaven feed me ‘til I want no more –
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

XIII. Institution of Communion (Elders Margaret Maxwell and Kevin Zeitler)

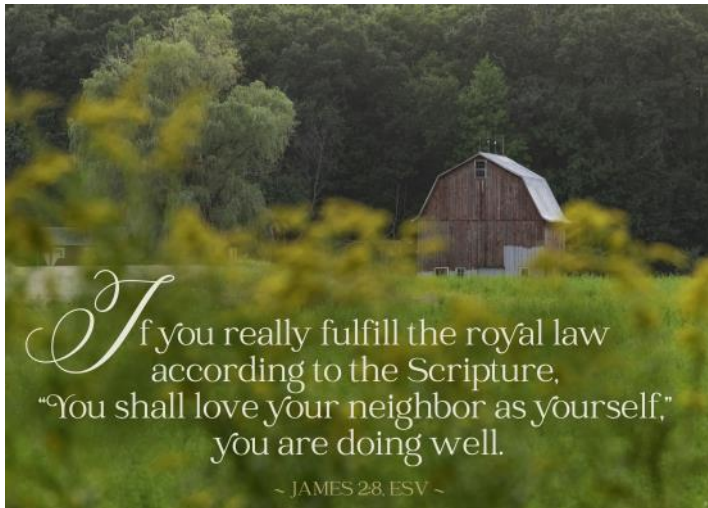
XIV. Partaking Communion Together

XV. Blessing/Benediction (Pastor Jesse)

XVI. Postlude - (Nancy Thomson)

NEW New Mask Guidelines for California (Effective July 28th, 2021)

Due to Delta variant, CDC and CDPH recommend everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask. We are asking everyone to please wear a mask if you are able to.



Looking Ahead

- Wednesday, August 18th, 8 am to noon, Work Day (with pizza to follow!). The focus will be on the kitchen, cleaning, sorting, and inventorying supplies.

August 8th-15th

CALENDAR

This Sunday

9:00 a.m.-Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation
Christian Education, Chapel and on [Zoom](#)
10:00 a.m.-Indoor Worship in Sanctuary (please bring masks) and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)

Monday

6:30 p.m.—Journeys of the Heart Bereavement,
Spiritual Care Center

Tuesday

1:00 p.m.-Check-in on [Zoom](#)

Thursday

No Music Jam this week

Next Sunday

9:00 a.m.-Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation
Christian Education, Chapel and on [Zoom](#)
10:00 a.m.-Indoor Worship in Sanctuary (please bring masks) and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)

Church Office Administrative Assistant Briony works remotely from home on Fridays.

Credits



Bulletin graphic: Photo by [Stormseeker](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Opening - CH #463 "Renew Your Church" Words: Kenneth L. Cober, 1960, alt. Music: American folk medlody, c. 1840. Words © 1960 Judson Press. (not in ccli as of August 2021)
- Invitation - CH #82 "His Eye is on the Sparrow" Words: Civilla D. Martin, 1905. Music: Charles H. Gabriel, 1905. Words: Public Domain. Music: Public Domain. CCLI# 77692
- Communion - CH# 351 "Fill My Cup, Lord" Words and Music: Richard Blanchard, 1959. © 1964 Sacred Songs, a div. of Word, Inc., all rights reserved; used by permission. CCLI# 15946

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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.
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