



## Advent Music Service

Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

December 11th, 2022—Third Sunday of Advent



**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 – “Away in a Manger” (String Ensemble)

### II. Welcome and Announcements – (Jerry Hambleton)

- Today – Fellowship following service.
- Monday - 5:00 p.m. String ensemble rehearsal in chapel.
- Tuesday –9:30 a.m. WICS and Koinonia Krafters prepping Christmas Flowers for delivery, Fireside; 11:00 a.m. No Music Jam this week
- Wednesday –9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside; 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts in K-Hall and Fireside.
- Thursday –2:00 p.m. Chico Creek/Chico Ballet Winter Wonderland rehearsals, K-hall; No Bible Study until next year
- Friday, all day Chico Creek/Chico Ballet Winter Wonderland rehearsals, K-hall, Fireside, Bethany, 6, 10
- Saturday, Chico Creek/Chico Ballet Winter Wonderland Performances, K-hall, Fireside, Bethany, 6, 10
- 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.

### **III. Carol – CH #167 “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (The Upbeats)**

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching  
O’er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a Holy light

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior’s birth

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

### **IV. Call to Confession and Words of Forgiveness – (Jerry Hambleton)**

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the  
opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in  
others, to give the benefit of the doubt.  
A million times a day we could choose the better way,  
but we so often don’t. Fear and greed kick in.  
Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.  
Comparison and critique lead the charge.

**Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants  
of Joseph.**

**Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are  
in our blood.**

**Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.  
Give us the courage to love even bigger than  
before, and the wisdom to choose a better way.  
Amen.**

## **V. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School**

### **VI. Carol 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 was 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 was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
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 his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

### **VII. Luke 1:46-55 NRSV (Jerry Hambleton)**

And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his  
servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me  
blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their  
hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their  
thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’

**VIII. “Mary Did You Know” (Marie Grandeen and Nancy Thompson)**

**IX. An Affirmation of Faith (Jerry Hambleton)**

**We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges.**

**We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.**

**We believe in a God who believes in us – believes that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war.**

**And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be. It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard. This we believe. Amen.**

**X. “Happy Christmas, War is Over” (The Upbeats)**

**XI. Matthew 1:18-25 NRSV – (Jerry Hambleton)**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was

found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**XII. “The Peace Carol” (The Upbeats)**

**XIII. Prayers of the People (Mary Kearns)**

#### **XIV. Carol – CH #159 “There’s a Song in the Air”**

There’s a song in the air! There’s a star in the sky!  
There’s a mother’s deep prayer and a Baby’s low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful birth,  
For the virgin’s sweet Boy is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
That comes down through the night from the heavenly  
throng.  
And we welcome the glorious gospel they bring,  
And we greet in His cradle our Savior and King!

#### **XV. Institution of Communion (Nancy Morgans- Ferguson and Georgia Nelson elders)**

#### **XVI. Partaking Communion Together - “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (String Ensemble)**

#### **XVII. Carol – CH #171 “God’s Love Made Visible!”**

God’s love made visible!  
Incomprehensible!  
Christ is invincible!  
His love shall reign!

From love so bountiful,  
blessings uncountable  
make death surmountable!  
His love shall reign!

Joyfully pray for peace and good will!  
All of our yearning he will fulfill.  
Live in a loving way!  
Praise him for every day!  
Open your hearts and pray.  
His love shall reign!

God gave the Son to us  
to dwell as one of us –  
a blessing unto us!  
His love shall reign!

To him all honor bring,  
heaven and earth will sing,  
praising our Lord and King!  
His love shall reign!

Open all doors this day of his birth,  
all of good will inherit the earth.  
His star will always be guiding humanity  
throughout eternity!  
His love shall reign!

## XVIII. Blessing/Benediction (Jesse Kearns)

## XIX. Postlude – “Good King Wenceslas” (String Ensemble)

### Christmas Special Offering

Repeat the Sounding Joy!

Repeat the sounding joy  
Of children and youth  
at camp

Repeat the sounding joy  
Of congregations  
welcoming their new  
pastor

Repeat the sounding joy  
Of congregations welcoming neighbors

Repeat the sounding joy  
Of racial divisions bridged

Repeat the sounding joy  
Of conflict resolved

Repeat the sounding joy  
Of relationships made near and far

Your Christmas offering equips our Region to echo the joy heard in summer camp settings, congregational life, seminary classrooms, and leadership gatherings. Your gift enables our Region to give support to Elders, Sunday School teachers, youth group sponsors, worship leaders, seminarians, and pastors so that joy resounds. With your



gift, connections are made between congregations and among Disciples throughout this Region and around the world. You are invited to make a gift to the Christmas Offering to repeat the sounding joy across our church. Thank you.

These offerings will be taken on December 11th and 18th, and offering envelopes will be in the bulletins on those dates. You can also donate online at [fccchico.com](https://fccchico.com) and specify it is for the Christmas Special Offering or at <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/thanksgiving/>

### Advent



- There are **printed Advent Devotionals** from Sanctified Art available in the Sanctuary, next to the bulletins as well as all ages Advent Coloring Calendar
- There is a digital Advent Devotional written by Members and Friends of the Sequoia Association of the Northern California Nevada Conference United Church of Christ which is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/87cwpjxd>
- Sanctified Art has a **free Spotify playlist** for the season [here](#).



## CHRISTMAS CARDS Christmas Cards

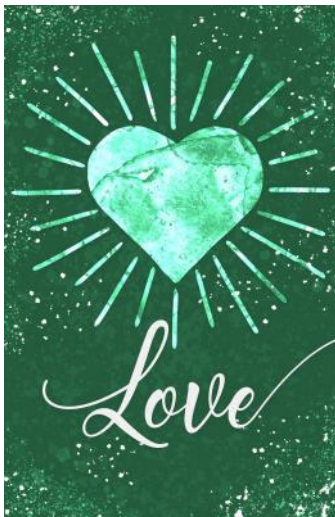


It is a tradition at FCC that, each year, rather than mailing out individual cards to the members of the church, many members send a card to the church which is then posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. They then donate what they would have spent on postage and this money is put into the Pastor's discretionary fund. The bulletin board in the narthex will be ready to start receiving your cards after Thanksgiving!



## Christmas Flowers

Once again, we will be decorating the Sanctuary and chapel with poinsettias and holiday flowers. Envelopes are in the pew racks. **The cost has increased this year to \$12. The last day to order flowers is THIS Sunday, December 11th.**



## Credits

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**December 11th-18th, 2022**

## **CALENDAR**

### **This Sunday—Third Sunday of Advent**

- 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

### **Monday**

- 5:00 p.m. Advent Rehearsals, Chapel

### **Tuesday**

- 9:30 a.m. WICS and Koinonia Krafters prepping Christmas Flowers for delivery, Fireside
- No Music Jam Practice this week

### **Wednesday**

- 9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 2 Koinonia Hall, Fireside

### **Thursday**

- 2:00 p.m. Chico Ballet and Chico Creek Rehearsals, Koinonia Hall, Fireside
- No Bible Study until January

### **Friday**

- All Day Chico Creek/Community Ballet Rehearsals, Koinonia Hall, Fireside, Bethany, 6, 10

### **Saturday**

- All Day Chico Creek/Community Ballet Performances, Koinonia Hall, Fireside, Bethany, 6, 10

### **Next Sunday—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols, join St. John's Episcopal and Faith Lutheran choirs for a festival of music for Advent and Christmas, free admission, at Faith Lutheran Church

## **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.