

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHICO
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

December 12th, 2021

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 – (Nancy Thompson)

II. Welcome and Announcements - (Mary Kearns)

- Today – Kay’s Coffee Bar in Fireside Room following worship, hosted by Barbara Mann, last day to order Christmas flowers.
- Tuesday, December 13 - 1:00 p.m. Check-in on Zoom and WICS Flower delivery preparation in Fireside Room.
- Wednesday, December 14 – 9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside, 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts in Koinonia Hall.
- Music Practice - TBA
- Sunday, December 19 – 9:00 a.m. Sacred Grounds in chapel and on Zoom, 10:00 a.m. Advent Musical Worship Service in sanctuary, Zoom and FaceBook Live

III. Opening Hymn – CH #143 “Joy to the World” (Nancy Thompson)

Joy to the world, the Lord has come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

IV. Call to Worship – (Mary Kearns)

Come and rejoice in God!
Sing praise to God who continually blesses our lives!

In the midst of troubles and stress, God is near,
offering compassion.

Our hope is in the Lord.

Let all the people praise God.
Hallelujah! AMEN.

V. Children’s Moment/Advent Candle and Calendar – (Jesse Kearns)

VI. Zephaniah 3:14-20 NRSV – (Mary Kearns)

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

VII. Sermon - “As It Is and Will Be” (Jesse Kearns)

VIII. Song of Invitation – CH #170 “How Great Our Joy” (Nancy Thompson)

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Lo, there appeared an angel bright.

How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

Born is the child, in manger small
Whom God has sent to save us all

How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

Go you the night, and you shall find
The Savior born for humankind

How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

Jesus, the gift from heav’n above
Fills all our hearts with joy and love!

How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

IX. Moment for Mission – (Christmas Offering)

X. Prayers of the People – (Mary Kearns)

XI. Communion Song CH #171 “God’s Love Made Visible” (Nancy Thompson)

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!

**XII. Institution of Communion (Elders Maxwell
Erwin and Kevin Zeitler)**

XIII. Partaking Communion Together

XIV. Blessing/Benediction (Jesse Kearns)

XV. Postlude - (Nancy Thomson)




Advent 2021: Seeking God Among Us

- * Third Sunday of Advent: Joy **December 12th**, *Zephaniah 3:14-20, “As It Is and Will Be”, Christmas Special Offering
- * Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love, **December 19th**, *Luke 1:39-45 (46-55), Special Music Sunday, Christmas Special Offering
- * **December 24th**: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m. with First Baptist, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and Chico Friends Quakers at [First Baptist Church](#) (850 Palmetto Ave, Chico). The theme is “One Night in Bethlehem”

Church office closed December 24th-January 2nd



2021 Christmas Offering 

*A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund
supporting the ministries of our Region*

**Christmas Special Offering will be taken
December 12th and 19th**

**We imagine God's love revealed
when Jesus called disciples to follow him**

And we imagine God's love revealed when our Region nurtures persons for ministry preparing them for ordination and commissioning.

**We imagine God's love revealed when Jesus
drew his disciples into retreat**

And we imagine God's love revealed when our Region gathers children, youth, and adults in summer camps.

**We imagine God's love revealed when the Apostle Paul
cared for congregations and helped them find their leaders**

And we imagine God's love revealed when our Region provides care for our pastors, encouragement to lay leaders, and support in transitions.

**We imagine God's love revealed when the early church
found ways to break down racial, political, and economic
barriers to form true community**

And we imagine God's love revealed when our Region assists pastors and congregations to honestly confront racism in our own time.

**We imagine God's love revealed when a young couple in
Bethlehem, overwhelmed by God's love, gave birth to one
in whom they could see God's face**

And we imagine God's love revealed when we see the face of God in our neighbor, the stranger, and the refugee.

We invite you to share your gift to the Christmas offering supporting the ministries of our Region as we continue our witness to God's love in our midst.



You may make a gift to the Christmas offering through your local church, or online at disciplesmissionfund.org/give

<https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/christmas/>



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Dec. 12th-19th 2021

CALENDAR

This Sunday—3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy

Today is the last day to order Christmas Flowers!

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](#)

After Church-Fellowship “Kay’s Coffee Bar”, hosted by Barbara Mann, Fireside

Tuesday

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

2:00 p.m. WICS Homebound flower delivery prep, Fireside

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside

6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (Jay Nelson), Koinonia Hall and Fireside

Thursday

No Music rehearsal today

Next Sunday—4th Sunday of Advent: Love

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](#)

After Church-Fellowship “Kay’s Coffee Bar”, hosted by Barbara Mann, Fireside

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

Mask Guidelines for California Due to variants, 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.

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

