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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHICO
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

December 13th, 2020

Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE

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An Unexpected Gift credits at end of bulletin*

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, more.

I. Prelude - “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” (Andra Moran)

II. Welcome (Pastor Jesse)

No Zoom Check-In on Tuesday again.

Wednesday - Accepting Reverse Advent Calendar donations at the church in the morning.

Zoom Christmas Eve Service with First Baptist Church, December 24 at 7:00 and picking up candles if you need them for Advent Christmas Eve service.

Thursday - Bible Study on 1-2 Samuel continues.
Sacred Grounds, 9:00 next Sunday

Worship, 10:00 next Sunday

III. Opening Hymn – CH #165 “Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

Christ came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

IV. Invocation – (Joe Rogers)

You are many names, Loving God. Wonderful,
Mighty, Everlasting, Reconciler. We gather today to
praise You, to give our pleas over to You, to surrender
to You. We pray for wisdom that brings light in the
darkness of selfish ways. We pray for courage that
moves hearts of stone. We pray for inspiration to
dream of wholeness. We pray for renewal and
reconciliation within and without.

Move among those of us who do not feel loved in
these days of merry-making. Surround those who
struggle to love as you have loved, who harbor hate
and fear. Intervene with love, Gracious One; and give

to us loving action that when the moment comes for
us to make our stand, may it always be on the side of
love. Emmanuel.

V. Advent Candle Lighting: Peace Candle – (Jesse and Mary)

VI. Candle Lighting Song – CH #128 “One Candle is Lit” vs. 3 (Josh)

VII. Isaiah 9:2-7 – (Andra Moran)

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

VIII. Sermon - “Love is an Unexpected Gift” (Pastor Jesse)

IX. Song of Reflection CH #148 “O Come All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Oh, come, oh come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Child for us sinners
Poor and in the manger
we would embrace thee with love and awe
Who would not love thee
Loving us so dearly.
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Yes, Lord, we greet thee
Born for our salvation
Jesus, to thee be all glory given
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

**X. Moment for Mission – Regional Minister
LaTaunya Bynum, Christmas Offering**

XI. Prayer and Reflection Time – (Mary Kearns)

**XII. Communion Song CH #171 “God’s Love
Made Visible”**

God's love made visible!
Incomprehensible!
He is invincible!
His love shall reign
From love so bountiful, blessing uncountable make
death surmountable
Joyfully pray for peace and goodwill!
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 his Son to us to dwell as one of us
his 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 Kevin
Zeitler and Georgia Nelson)**

XIII. Blessing/Benediction

XIV. Postlude - (Joshua Hegg)

XV. Fellowship Time in breakout rooms.

Credits:

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Charles Wesley “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” arr. and addtl. text Andra Moran ©2014 AMMO Music (ASCAP)

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

CALENDAR

December 13th-20th, 2020

This Sunday—Third Sunday of Advent: Love **Christmas Special Offering**

9:00 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation
Christian Education, on [Zoom](#)

10:00 a.m. Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and
[Facebook](#)

Tuesday

No Weekly Check-in on Zoom this week
WICS meeting is cancelled this month

7:00 p.m. Elders meeting on [Zoom](#)

Wednesday

9-11 a.m. Drop off time for Christmas Projects

FINAL DAY TO DROP OFF DONATIONS!

For more information see the weekly Calleritos

Thursday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study, [Zoom](#)

Next Sunday—Fourth Sunday of Advent: Joy **Christmas Special Offering**

9:00 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation
Christian Education, on [Zoom](#)

10:00 a.m. Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and
[Facebook](#)