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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHICO (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

December 20th, 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 - “Go Where I Send Thee” (Andra Moran and Friends)

II. Welcome (Pastor Jesse)

Zoom Check-in Tuesday at 1:00

Zoom Christmas Eve Service with First Baptist Church, Thursday, December 24 at 7:00

Sacred Grounds, 9:00 next Sunday

Worship, 10:00 next Sunday

III. Opening Hymn – CH #164 “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is 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 is born for this
He has opened heaven's door
We are blessed for evermore
Christ it born today! Christ is born today!

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 the everlasting hall
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

IV. Invocation – (Joe Rogers)

You are the wellspring of pure joy. When our own wells run dry, we turn to you for refilling. Here we are, ready for your hope, peace and joy to pour over us. Revive us again, God. Today, let us find delight in who you are: Always faithful, always Love. Give us joyful hearts; hearts that are strengthened by the Joy that comes from being connected to you. Amen.

V. Advent Candle Lighting: Love Candle – (Jacky and Peyton Smith)

VI. Candle Lighting Song – CH #128 “One Candle is Lit” vs. 4 (Josh)

Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play
Where evil is banished and faith takes the day
A babe in a manger to fool the world’s eyes
One candle is lit for God’s loving surprise.

VII. Luke 1:26-45 – (Andra Moran)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a

Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

VIII. Sermon - "Joy is an Unexpected Gift" (Pastor Jesse)

IX. Song of Reflection CH #170 "How Great Our Joy"

While by the sheep we watched at night,
glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain:

How great our joy!

Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,
in Bethlehem a child today.

How great our joy!

Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall the child lie in a stall,
this child who shall redeem us all.

How great our joy!

Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
that ever joy our hearts shall fill.

How great our joy!

Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

X. Moment for Mission – "The Peace Carol" (Bob Johnson and Pastor Jesse)

XI. Prayer and Reflection Time – (Mary Kearns)

XII. Communion Song CH #420 “I Come With Joy”

I come with joy, a child of God,
Forgiven loved and free
The life of Jesus to recall
In love laid down for me
In Love laid down for me

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share
Each proud division ends
The love that made us makes us one
And strangers now are friends
And Strangers now are friends

Together met, together bound
By all that God has done
We'll go with joy to give the world
The love that makes us one
The love that makes us one.

XII. Institution of Communion (Elders Glenn Story and Peggy Davidson)

XIII. Blessing/Benediction

XIV. Postlude - (Nancy Thompson)

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 20th-27th, 2020

This 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](#)

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Weekly Check-in, [Zoom](#)
2:00 p.m. Healing Circle to follow the Weekly
Check-in, [Zoom](#)

Thursday—Christmas Eve! Church Office closed

7:00 p.m. Joint Online Service with First Baptist,
[Zoom](#) (our usual Zoom room)
No Bible Study this week or next

Friday—Merry Christmas! Church Office closed

Next Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation
Christian Education, on [Zoom](#)
10:00 a.m. Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and
[Facebook](#)

Church Office closed December 24th-January 1st