



## *The Light of All People*

**Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor**

**December 25th, 2022—Christmas**



**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 – (Nancy Thompson)**

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

- Today – Fellowship following service.
- Monday – Friday: Office closed, staff on vacation.
- Wednesday –7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts in K-Hall and Fireside.
- Saturday – North Valley Intergroup AA New Year's Party in K-Hall and Fireside.
- 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. Opening Hymn – CH #151 “The First Noel” (Nancy Thompson)**

The first Noel, the angel did say;  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

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

Holy God, we admit that we don't fully understand  
the Christmas story.

**We are not familiar with the angel choruses.**

We have not walked many miles to be counted in a  
census,

**And we don't always hear your voice in our  
dreams.**

We don't fully understand this story, so we admit,  
sometimes we hesitate to tell it. Instead of  
running out into the streets to shout that there is a  
love bigger than we could imagine,

**We whisper this good news.**

Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting  
people in,

**We simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will  
figure it out.**

Instead of telling the next generation why this night  
matters so much,

**We stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.**

Forgive us for our silence.

**Forgive us for our hesitation.**

Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share  
your good news.

**Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that  
we cannot help but share it from generation to  
generation. Amen.**

Friends, repeat after me:

No matter where we go  
No matter what we say  
No matter what we do  
We belong to God.

We are held.  
We are loved.  
We are forgiven.  
Amen!

#### **V. John 1:1-14 NRSV – (Jerry Hambleton)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

#### **VI. Sermon - “The Light of All People” (Jesse Kearns)**

#### **VII. Song of Invitation – CH #162 “What Child Is This?” (Nancy Thompson)**

What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading:

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud  
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, rich and poor, to own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud  
the babe, the son of Mary.

### **VIII. An Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that for generations people have  
gathered together on this holy day because  
there is something about this story that speaks  
to the deepest parts of us.**

**We believe in bundling up this hope, this good  
news, and passing it on –  
To our children, to our neighbors, to the world  
around us.**

**I believe my voice can make a difference, just like  
I believe this story can make a difference, so I  
will not stay silent.**

**I will tell this story – a love that makes room for  
all.**

**I will sing this story – of a love that knows our  
name.**

**I will live this story – because love has come  
again.**

**I believe that words have power. I will not stay  
silent.**

**Amen.**

### **IX. Prayers of the People (Mary Kearns)**

### **X. Communion Song CH #147 “Away in a Manger” (Nancy Thompson)**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

#### **XI. Institution of Communion (Georgeanne Bennett and Bill Peterson, elders)**

#### **XII. Partaking Communion Together**

#### **XIII. Blessing/Benediction**

#### **XIV. Postlude – (Nancy Thompson)**

#### **Taking Down Christmas Decorations**

We need help with taking down the Christmas  
Decorations. If you can help, please show up on Sunday,  
January 1st, at 3:00 p.m.!

#### **Christmas Cards**

Thank you to those who sent Christmas cards

- ✧ Anne Zung Lee Tsong
- ✧ Barbara Mann
- ✧ Monica Myers Greenberg, Vice President, Mountain  
West Zone, Christian Church Foundation

- ✧ Karen Zinniel, LHP Interiors
- ✧ Corky LeTellier
- ✧ Tom Shilfflet
- ✧ Carolyn Driscoll
- ✧ Jane Bisset
- ✧ The Abbey of Our Lady of New Clairvaux
- ✧ Resham Kajley

#### **Christmas Flowers**

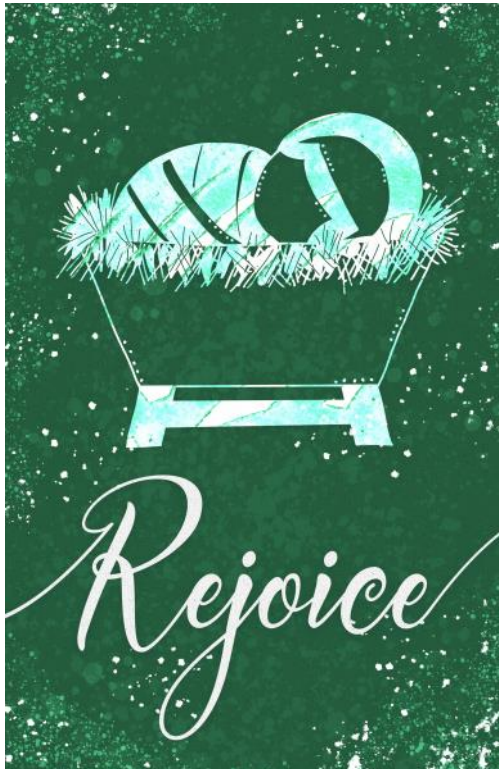
The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary have been  
given to proclaim the Gift of Love that came on  
Christmas, and in joyful celebration, memory or  
honor of those who have enriched our lives.

- ✧ Connie Wakefield, in honor of Audi Van Ornum,  
in honor of Jane Bisset, and in honor of Church  
Administrative Assistant, Briony
- ✧ Marie Grandeen
- ✧ Cantwells
- ✧ Bobbi Robinson
- ✧ Lori Terrell-Adrian in celebration of her family
- ✧ Peggy Davidson, in memory of loved ones and in  
honor of family
- ✧ Judy Brillhart in honor of those who can't come  
to church
- ✧ Shirley Thill in memory of Anne Shifflet
- ✧ Nancy Thompson
- ✧ Kathy Moran in celebration of her children and  
grandchildren
- ✧ Wanda Story in honor of the Story Family

Upper Room Devotionals for January-February 2023 are on top of the bookshelves in the sanctuary entrance.

### Annual Reports

It's getting to be that time of year again. All Annual Reports are due January 15th. Who needs to turn in a report? The Ministry Circle Coordinators, Moderator, Treasurer, and Fun Timers. Please turn in your one-page summary report on paper or by email ([chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com)) to the church office. Call Briony at 343-3727 if you have any questions. Don't forget to turn in your keys if appropriate (if you are no longer a church leader, for example)!



### Credits

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**Dec. 25th-Jan. 1st, 2022**

## **CALENDAR**

### **This Sunday—Christmas Day**

- 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—Church Office Closed**

### **Tuesday—Church Office Closed**

### **Wednesday—Church Office Closed**

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

### **Thursday—Church Office Closed**

### **Friday—Church Office Closed**

### **Saturday—New Year's Eve**

- North Valley Intergroup AA New Year's Eve Party, Koinonia Hall, Fireside

### **Next Sunday—New Years Day**

- 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

Church Office closed through January 2nd, and will be open again Tuesday, January 3rd.

## **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.