



Perplexed and Confused

Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

December 4th, 2022—Second 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 – (Joshua Hegg)

II. Welcome and Announcements – (Kevin Zeitler)

- Today – Fellowship following service.
- Monday - 5:00 p.m. String Ensemble rehearsal in chapel.
- Tuesday –11:00 a.m. Music jam in the sanctuary; 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting on Zoom.
- Wednesday –7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts in K-Hall and Fireside.
- Thursday –7:00 p.m. Bible Study on Zoom and in Room 6.
- Saturday – 2:00 p.m. Blue Holiday service, 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 #138 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (Joshua Hegg)

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

In deepest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the silent join in song,
The tired shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share,
and bring us at last into glory.

IV. Call to Confession and Words of Forgiveness – (Kevin Zeitler)

**Patient God, you know just how often we make
decisions from a place of fear rather than love.
You know just how often we allow fear to take the
place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our
lives. You know just how often we tuck your
words, “Don’t be afraid” on dusty shelves and in
the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our**

**own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the
microphone. Silence the voice of scarcity,
shame, and rejection which spark and feed so
much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With
hope we pray, amen.**

V. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School

VI. Luke 1:26-38 NRSV – (Kevin Zeitler)

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.

VII. Sermon - "Perplexed and Confused" (Jesse Kearns)

VIII. Song of Invitation – CH #148 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Joshua Hegg)

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,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God,

All glory in the highest
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!

Yea, 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!

IX. An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who knows our fears.

We believe in a God who says, “Be Not Afraid.”

We believe in a God who kicks off God’s shoes

And wades into the muck of our lives with us.

**We believe in a God who stitches God’s self to
our heels and invites us to dance.**

**We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the
night sky so that we can find our way home,
and who sends us friends with open doors so
we can find our way to love.**

**We believe in a God who finds us in our fear and
does not leave us alone.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

X. Moment for Missions

XI. Prayers of the People (Mary Kearns)

XII. Communion Song CH #413 “Take Our Bread” (Joshua Hegg)

Take our bread, we ask you,
take our hearts, we love you.
Take our lives, O Father
We are yours, we are yours

Yours as we stand at the table you set
Yours as we eat the bread our hearts can’t forget
We are the sign of your life with us yet
We are yours, we are yours.

Take our bread, we ask you,
take our hearts, we love you.
Take our lives, O Father
We are yours, we are yours

Your holy people standing washed in your blood
Spirit filled yet hungry we await your food
We are poor, but we’ve brought ourselves the best
that we could
We are yours, we are yours

Take our bread, we ask you,
take our hearts, we love you.
Take our lives, O Father
We are yours, we are yours

XIII. Institution of Communion (Max Erwin and Bill Peterson, elders)

XIV. Partaking Communion Together

XV. Blessing/Benediction

XVI. Postlude – (Joshua Hegg)



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...
There's room for every story

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.**



Credits

- Advent Resources from sanctifiedart.org
- Bulletin graphic: "Mary's Golden Annunciation" by Carmelle Beaugelin | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" Words and Music: Marty Haugen, 1983. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.
- "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Words: John Francis Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others. Music: John Francis Wade, 1743; desc. David Willocks, 1961. Desc. © 1961 Oxford University Press. CCLI# 31054 Words: Public Domain, Music: Public Domain
- "Take Our Bread" Words and Music: Joe Wise, 1966 © 1966 Joe Wise; used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc.
- Hymns Used by Permission CCLI Copyright License # 37151

December 4th-11th, 2022

CALENDAR

This Sunday—Second 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. String Ensemble Rehearsals, Chapel

Tuesday

- 11:00 a.m. Music Jam, **Sanctuary**
- 7:00 p.m. Church Board meeting on [Zoom](#)

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study on [Zoom](#) and Room 6

Saturday

- 2:00 p.m. Blue Christmas, Fireside

Next 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

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
- **Masks:** Masks are recommended but not required. Adult and child size masks are available in the Sanctuary as well as hand sanitizer.