



# Putting Sin in its Rightful Place

February 26th, 2023  
Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

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

- Today – Fellowship following service; Safe Space Winter Shelter extended in K-Hall.
- Tuesday – 11:30 a.m. Music jam in Room 4.
- Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, K-Hall, and Fireside. 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper, 7:00 p.m. Service, Faith Lutheran
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship team meeting at Cozy Diner; 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble practice in the Chapel, 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study in Room 6 and on Zoom.
- Saturday – 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group in Spiritual Care Center.
- Sunday – 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds; 10:00 a.m. Worship in sanctuary, Zoom and FaceBook Live; Fellowship in Fireside following the service. Safe Space Winter Shelter ends in K-Hall.

## III. Opening Hymn – CH #699 “Rejoice the Lord is King” (Nancy Thompson)

Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
The risen Christ adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,  
and triumph evermore:  
lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

God's reign can never fail,  
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given:  
lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!  
For Christ, our Judge, shall come  
to glorify the saints  
for their eternal home:  
lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

#### **IV. Call to Worship – (Gary Cantwell)**

What is it like to begin again?

**It is like flowers in the spring that push through  
frozen ground. It is like babies learning to  
walk, one clumsy step at a time.  
It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for  
guidance.  
It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week  
anew.**

May we find God in our seeking.

**May we learn as we go.**

May we be brave enough to begin again.

**Let us worship the God of new beginnings.**

#### **V. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School**

#### **VI. Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness (Gary Cantwell)**

God of new life, you call us into unknown places,  
**and we bury our heads in the sand.**

You promise all the stars in the sky,  
**and we doubt it can be true.**

You speak of new life in the Spirit,  
**and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.**

Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to  
you.

**Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us  
the courage to begin again with you. Amen.**

**Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:  
There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than  
we can imagine.**

**No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we  
have been forgiven. Today, the slate is wiped  
clean. Today, we are made new.**

## VII. Genesis 2:1-17; 3:1-7 NRSV – (Gary Cantwell)

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden”?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be

desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

### **VIII. Sermon - “Putting Sin in its Rightful Place” (Jesse Kearns)**

### **IX. Song of Invitation – CH #611 “Rise Up, O Saints of God” (Nancy Thompson)**

Rise up, O saints of God!  
Have done with lesser things.  
give heart and mind and soul and strength  
to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O saints of God!  
The kingdom tarries long.  
Bring in the day of righteousness,  
and end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O saints of God!  
The church for you doth wait,  
with strength unequal to the task;  
rise up, and make it great.

Lift high the cross of Christ;  
tread where Christ’s feet have trod;  
come sisters, brothers in the faith,  
rise up, O saints of God.

### **X. An Affirmation of Faith**

In a world full of noise, we believe that God is speaking.  
In a world full of chaos, we believe that God is singing.  
In a world full of temptation, we believe that God is healing.  
Church, who will you listen to?

**We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.**

Church, what will you listen for?

**We will listen for water in the desert, for the wind of the Spirit,  
for the laughter of children,  
for the sound of open doors,  
and for God’s voice, who calls us beloved.  
Amen.**

### **XI. Prayers of the People (Jesse Kearns)**

## **XII. Communion Song CH #354 “Seek Ye First” (Nancy Thompson)**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And God’s righteousness  
And all these things shall be added unto you  
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you  
Seek and ye shall find  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you  
Allelu, alleluia!

## **XIII. Institution of Communion (Georgia Nelson, Max Erwin elders)**

## **XIV. Partaking Communion Together**

## **XV. Blessing/Benediction**

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

Upper Room Devotionals are in the Sanctuary  
Narthex on the bookshelves.

**Lenten Devotional:** As Pastor Jesse mentioned in his February Caller article, we can print and mail Lenten Devotionals upon request. Our friends at *A Sanctified Art* have provided a **special e-reader version** of this year’s Lenten devotional. If you are interested in the e-reader version, please contact the church office, 530-343-3727, [chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com). **In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.**

# RISE UP ANEW: SUNNY DAY CAMP



On a dark night in early December 2021, entirely out of season, tornadoes tore across eight states, killing more than 80 people and devastating many communities. Just eight months later, on a warm Saturday in July, two Disciples churches and several community organizations made sure that dozens of children impacted by those winter storms in western Kentucky spent time outside with friends and caregivers, reveling in a bright and sunny day.

As their churches were recovering from the storms, caring for their members and communities, and even hosting long-term recovery volunteers, pastors at First Christian Church of Madisonville and First Christian Church of Princeton dreamed of a way to connect with the region's youngest survivors—children from kindergarten to fifth grade who were affected by the tornadoes.

How could they care for children who had been through so much, so little of it they could understand? In the season after such fear, how could these children feel loved and have access to the care they needed? How could the church help them blossom and flourish—how could they, in the words of Lamentations, rise up anew?

With the support of Week of Compassion; gifts and volunteers from both congregations; and the expertise of Children's Disaster Services (a Week of Compassion partner), a medical team at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville, and Child Life Disaster Services (a local network of specialists with expertise in trauma, positive coping, and resilience), the Sunny Day Camp was born.

Children spent an entire day, at no cost to their families, going about perfectly typical day camp fare at the Western Kentucky 4-H Camp: canoeing, crafts, swimming, meals and snacks. And alongside these gifts of normalcy, trained professionals provided age-appropriate opportunities for processing grief and trauma. Children connected with therapy animals, worked with disaster relief counselors, and had a local physician available for care onsite.

A living witness to God's constant mercies, and committed to healing and wholeness especially among the youngest and most vulnerable, these churches and their local partners put your Week of Compassion gifts to work, transforming suffering into hope, so that churches, communities, and children can rise up anew, together.

Our hope is rooted and nourished by God's steadfast, abundant, enduring, ever-in-supply and in season compassion. Remembering the compassion of God can ease the pain of what seems like a never-ending news cycle of devastation.

*Yet it is because I remember all this that I have hope. YHWH's favor is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God's faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:21-23, The Inclusive Bible)*

Singing this promise can give us the strength of heart to **RISE UP ANEW** when our hearts are weary from the work of caring about and for all those in need in this beautiful and broken world.

When rains come and waters rise, generosity follows close behind.

When fires rage and destruction looms, support and help are stirred up too.

When war and disease and drought are too close for too long, compassion comes closer, and God's mercies are made known through the gifts of God's people.

Through domestic disaster response in familiar communities; preparedness training



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for congregations and individuals; refugee response in the aftermath of national conflicts; and ecumenical partnerships that engage international disaster response and support basic human needs for shelter, food, education, and livelihoods Week of Compassion proclaims this truth: God's mercies **RISE UP ANEW** each day.

Because of your generosity, Week of Compassion meets people and communities in the midst of grief and lament, in the deepest moments of 'How could this happen?', as the very real presence of God's unfailing compassion.



## SPECIAL OFFERING 2023 FEBRUARY 19-26

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.



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Feb. 26th-Mar. 5th, 2023

CALENDAR

### This Sunday

- 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, Fireside
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary
- Safe Space extended another week

### Tuesday

- 11:30 a.m. Music Jam, Room 4

### Wednesday

- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Koinonia Hall, Fireside
- 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper and Service, Faith Lutheran

### Thursday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner
- 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble Rehearsals, Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study, 6/Zoom

### Saturday

- 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Grief Group, Spiritual Care Center

### Next Sunday—Scout Sunday

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary
- Safe Space ends



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## Upcoming Events

- Wednesdays, March 1st-29th, Ecumenical Lenten Soup Suppers and Service, 6 pm
  - We will be serving Soup on March 8th so bring soups around 5:45 pm to Faith Lutheran
- Palm Sunday, April 2nd
- Maundy Thursday, April 6th, 7 pm service in Fireside
- Easter Sunday, April 9th, Sunrise Service at 7 am, and 10 am service
- Pentecost in the Park, May 21st, Wildwood Park

## 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.