



INTERPRETING THE WORD

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHICO
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

January 23rd, 2022

AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE

Wifi Network: FirstChicoSecure Password: bloom7594diesel
Ph. 530-343-3727 • chicodisciples@gmail.com • fccchico.com

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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 - (Kathy Moran)

- Zoom Check-In on Tuesday at 1:00
- PEO in Fireside Room on Wednesday at 9:00
- Boy Scouts in K-Hall on Wednesday at 6:00
- Music jam at 11:00 on Thursday.
- Bible Study Thursday at 7:00 on Zoom.
- Bereavement group Friday at 6:00
- Sacred Grounds, 9:00 next Sunday.
- Worship, 10:00 in the sanctuary, Zoom and FaceBook Live.

III. Opening Hymn – CH #330 “Alleluia! Hear God’s Story” (Nancy Thompson)

Alleluia! Hear God’s story,
still unfolding with each dawn.
Taste the wine and body broken:
God’s creative love lives on.
Who the neighbor? Who the hungry?
Who is thirsty for shalom?
God of journey, in your story;
lead us, with the neighbor, home.

Alleluia! Sing the story;
God’s great faithfulness proclaim.
Tell of prophets and apostles;
sing the power of Jesus’ name.

Who the neighbor? Who the listener?
Who has ears to hear our song?
God of history, tune our voices,
make our hopeful witness strong.

Alleluia! Dance the story;
every sinew now engage.
Tethered close in truthful worship,
boldly face the coming age.
Who the neighbor? Who the watchful?
Who will welcome life's embrace?
God of gospel, tell the story
through our dancing of your grace.

IV. Call to Worship – (Kathy Moran)

Response – CH #326 “Thy Word”

We gather today with attentive ears and open minds.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

As we lift our voices in song and as we attend to the words of scripture, may we be unified in love.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

We thank you that your mercy and grace are new every morning and your faithfulness is never-ending.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Prepare us to be your witnesses from here to the ends of the earth.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

V. Children's Moment – (Jesse Kearns)

VI. Nehemiah 8:1-10 NRSV – (Kathy Moran)

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose and opened the book in the sight of all

the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. The Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

VII. Sermon - "Interpreting the Word" (Jesse Kearns)

VIII. Song of Invitation – CH #323 "Wonderful Words of Life" (Nancy Thompson)

Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful words of life;
Let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty
Teach me faith and duty.

Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all
Wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list to the loving call,
Wonderful words of life;
All so freely given,
Wooing us to heaven.

Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life.

Sweetly echo the gospel call,
Wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all,
Wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
Sanctify forever.

Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life.

IX. Moments for Mission – Surprise!

X. Prayers of the People – (Jesse Kearns)

XI. Communion Song CH #420 “I Come With Joy” (Nancy Thompson)

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.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

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.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

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 Bill Peterson and Peggy Davidson)

XIII. Partaking Communion Together

XIV. Blessing/Benediction (Jesse Kearns)

XV. Postlude - (Nancy Thomson)

California Mask Mandate Extended to February 15th: Everyone must wear a mask in public indoor gatherings.

Credits

- Bulletin Graphic: Photo by [Tom Podmore](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- “Alleluia! Hear God's Story” Words: Mary Anne Parrott, 1986. Music: Polish folk melody; adapt. A.E. Rusbridge. Words © 1995 Chalice Press; adapt. © Rosalind Rushbridge.
- “Wonderful Words of Life” Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1874. Public Domain.
- “I Come With Joy” Words: Brian Wren, 1969; rev. 1982, 1995. Music: *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987. Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.; harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. CCLI# 3452499
- “Thy Word is a Lamp Unto my Feet” Words: Amy Grant, 1984. Music: Michael W. Smith, 1984; arr. Keith Phillips, © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Co. (a div. of The Sparrow Corp.)/ Bug & Bear Music. CCLI# 14301
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January 23rd-30th, 2022

CALENDAR

This Sunday

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

10:00 a.m.-Indoor Worship in Sanctuary (please bring masks) and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)

No Fellowship until after February 15th

After Church meeting for all Bazaar and DWM participants, contact Peggy Davidson or Nancy Thompson for more info

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Check-in on [Zoom](#)

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside

6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (Jay Nelson), Koinonia Hall and Fireside

Thursday

11:00 a.m. Music Jam for all fully vaccinated musicians, Room 4

7:00 p.m. Bible Study on [Zoom](#)

Friday

Evening Parking lot use by Museum of Northern California Arts

6:30 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, Spiritual Care Center (Group closed after first meeting)

Next Sunday

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

10:00 a.m.-Indoor Worship in Sanctuary (please bring masks) and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)

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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.
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www.fccchico.com

