

July 16th, 2023 Guest Preacher Rev. Tom Shifflet
Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor





First Christian Church Chico

(Disciples of Christ)

AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE

Wi-Fi Network: FCCDOC Password: 5303433727

10 a.m. Sunday Worship • Ph. 530-343-3727 • chicodisciples@gmail.com
fccchico.com  [fccchico](https://www.facebook.com/fccchico)  [fccchico](https://www.instagram.com/fccchico)  [ChicoFCC](https://twitter.com/ChicoFCC)  [FCCChico](https://www.youtube.com/FCCChico)

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. Ringing of the Bell

III. Welcome and Announcements – (Worship Leaders: Bryce Jones and Brittany Hubbard)

- Today – Fellowship following service.
- Tuesday – 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel; 7:00 p.m. Elders meeting on Zoom
- Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, Koinonia Hall, 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
- Offerings may be put in the collection plate which is near the bulletins near the entrance of the sanctuary

IV. Opening Hymn – CH #484 “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” (Joshua Hegg)

We’ve a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord;
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples

might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

V. Call to Worship [Congregation reads **bold** type
(responsively)]

Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us we
have come to worship and to praise.

**With thanks we offer to God the creativity of our
minds, the warmth of our hearts, and the joy
of our spirits.**

We love because God has first loved us, freeing us
from the power of sin and death.

**With glad hearts let us join together in singing
praise to God: Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

**VI. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed
for Sunday School**

VII. Psalm 119: 105-112 Laughing Bird Version

What you say, LORD, lights up the track in front of me
so I can see where to put my feet.
I am committed to doing what you say is right;
I've given my word and signed on the line.
I have been put through the wringer here, LORD;
put me back on my feet, just as you promised.
I am giving you the credit for everything, LORD;
accept my gift and teach me how to do things your way.
Even though my grip on life is shaky,
I never forget what you have taught me.
Ruthless thugs are always trying to derail me,
but you have shown me the right track and I'm sticking to it.
Your guidance is a rich heritage for my future;
it has put a smile on my face forever.
My mind is fixed on following your directions,
come what may, forever.

VIII. Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 NRSV

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went

out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

IX. Sermon – “Jesus’ Parable of the Soil” (Rev. Tom Shifflet)

X. Hymn of Invitation– CH #543 “Blessed Assurance” (Joshua Hegg)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my savior all the day long.

XI. Moments for Mission: 2023 General Assembly The Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29 – August 1 (video)

XII. Prayers of the People (Chaplain Mary Kearns)

XIII. Communion Song CP #163 “Come to the Table of the Lord” (Joshua Hegg)

Sisters and brothers, gather the others
Come to the table of the Lord!
Welcome the crying
The poor and the dying
to feast at the banquet of the Lord.

Call up the preachers, send for the teachers.
Come to the table of the Lord!
Summon young people, bring in old people
To share in the banquet of the Lord.

We remember the words that Jesus said
when he raised the cup and he blessed the bread:
“This bread is my body, God’s covenant made new.
This cup is m blood, which is poured out for you.”

Sisters and brothers, gather the others.
Come to the Table of the Lord!
Invite the needy, beckon the greedy,
Be fed at the table of the Lord.
To be changed at the table of the Lord,
Come to the table of the Lord.

XIV. Institution of Communion (Bill Peterson and Bobbi Robinson, elders)

XV. Partaking Communion Together

XVI. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Tom Shifflet)

XVII. Postlude – (Joshua Hegg)

Recommendations to the Nominating Task

Force: Recommendations to the Nominating Task
Force hand outs are in the Sanctuary, next to the
bulletins. They can be returned in the offering
plate on Sunday mornings, or sent to the church
office by email, or mail.

Attendance

Attendance for July 9th, 2023:

Online: 13 Sanctuary: 45 Total: 58

Credits

- Bulletin graphic: Photo by [roberto bernardi](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” Words and Music: H. Ernest Nichol, 1896. CCLI#2257437
- Laughing Bird Psalm text ©2002 Nathan Nettleton
LaughingBird.net
- “Blessed Assurance” Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873. CCLI# 22324
- “Come to the Table of the Lord” Words and Music: Audrey Borschel. © 2002 Audrey Borschel
- Hymns Used by Permission CCLI Copyright License #37151

This Sunday—Guest Preacher Rev. Tom Shifflet

- 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

Tuesday

- 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Elders meeting on [Zoom](#)

Wednesday

- 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, Koinonia Hall, Fireside

Next Sunday—Guest Preacher Joe Rogers

- 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

Pastor Jesse will be on Sabbatical
June 26th through September 17th

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.