



Can These Bones Live?

March 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 (Barbara Mann)

- Today – Fellowship following service
- 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, and Service at Faith Lutheran, Bethel AME Church serving, Jesse preaching.
- 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.
- Palm Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds; 10:00 a.m. Worship in sanctuary, Zoom and FaceBook Live; Fellowship in Fireside following the service. Bazaar meeting in Room 6 at 12:15 p.m.
- Offerings may be put in the collection plate which is near the bulletins near the entrance of the sanctuary

III. Opening Hymn – CH #261 “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” (Nancy Thompson)

There’s a sweet, sweet spirit in this place
And I know that it’s the Spirit on the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove
Stay right here with us filling us with your love
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise
Without a doubt we'll know
That we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

IV. Call to Worship – (Barbara Mann)

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down
to the bone?

**Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your
back?**

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this
is God's house. Hope lives here.

So, come. Rest your weary bones.

Let us worship Holy God.

V. Call to Confession and Prayer of Forgiveness –

Friends, there is nothing that we have to keep hidden
from God—not our anger, our grief, or the ways in
which we have fallen short. In confession, we speak
honestly and are met with grace. So let us not hold
back. Let us bring our full selves to this prayer,
knowing that God is already running to meet us. Let
us pray:

**God, father to us all and to your Son Jesus of
Nazareth,**

I confess: I forget that you know this feeling.

I forget that you, too, have wept.

I forget that you, too, have lost.

**I forget that you, too, have gathered at the
tomb,**

**have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of
humanity.**

**Forgive me for all the times I place blame on
you.**

**Forgive me for all the times I create distance,
imagining that you could never feel what I
feel. Forgive me for allowing the valley of
dry bones to be a sea of space between us.**

Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart.

**Bring these bones back to life. Bring me
closer to you. With gratitude, I pray, amen.**

Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God,
pushing God away or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, and God would still love you all the same.
Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved.

So hear and believe this good news:

We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone.

VI. Ezekiel 37:1-14 NRSV – (Barbara Mann)

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and

the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

VII. Sermon - "Can These Bones Live?" (Jesse Kearns)

VIII. Song of Invitation – CH #254 “Breathe On me Breath of God” (Nancy Thompson)

Breathe on me breath of God
fill me with life anew
That I may love what thou dost love
And do what thou wouldst do

Breathe on me Breath of God
Until my heart is pure
Until with thee I will one will
to do and to endure

Breathe on me Breath of God
Till I am wholly thine
Until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine

Breathe on me Breath of God
So shall I never die
But live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

IX. Moment for Mission (Eileen Brownell)

X. Prayers of the People (Mary Kearns)

XI. Communion Song CH #259 “Spirit of the Living God” (Nancy Thompson)

Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me
Melt me, mold me,
fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me
Melt me, mold me,
fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me.

XII. Institution of Communion (Max Erwin and Kevin Zeitler elders)

XIII. Partaking Communion Together

XIV. Blessing/Benediction

XV. Postlude – (Nancy Thompson)

Easter Flowers

Once again, we will be decorating the Sanctuary and chapel with seasonal flowers. Envelopes are in the pew racks. **The cost is \$12. Deadline to order flowers is Palm Sunday, April 2nd.**

Upcoming Dates:

- Palm Sunday, April 2nd
- Maundy Thursday, April 6th, 7 pm service in Fireside
- Easter Sunday, April 9th, Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. service, followed by fellowship hosted by the Elders, with an egg hunt and gift bags for children.

Credits

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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

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, Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 6:00 p.m. Scouts, Koinonia Hall, Fireside
- 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper, and Service, Faith Lutheran, **Bethel AME serving, Pastor Jesse Preaching**

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

Next Sunday—Palm 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
- 12:15 p.m. Bazaar meeting, Room 6
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

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.