



March 5th, 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 – (Joshua Hegg)

## II. Welcome and Announcements – (Connie Wakefield)

- Today-- **Special welcome to our charter Scout Troop 2 for Scout Sunday!** No Fellowship. Safe Space Winter Shelter ends.
- Tuesday – 11:30 a.m. Music jam in Room 4; 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting on Zoom.
- Wednesday –6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Service and Soup Supper at Faith Lutheran Church; 7:00 p.m. Scouts in K-Hall and Fireside
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner; 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble practice in 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 – Daylight Saving Time Begins. 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 #517 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown;

Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find the promised rest;  
take away the love of sinning,  
alpha and omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

#### **IV. Call to Worship – (Connie Wakefield)**

We look for help.

**Where will it come from?**

Our help will come from the Lord who created the  
heavens and the earth.

**Let our hearts rejoice in God's kindness and love.  
AMEN.**

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

#### **VI. John 3:1-17 NRSV – (Connie Wakefield)**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is

born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## **VII. Sermon - "How Do We Begin Again?" (Jesse Kearns)**

## **VIII. Song of Invitation – CH #72 "To God Be the Glory" (Joshua Hegg)**

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his  
voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people  
rejoice!

Oh, come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his  
voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people  
rejoice!

Oh, come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath  
done,

and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his  
voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

### **IX. Moment for Mission – Boy Scout Troop 2 Report**

### **X. Prayers of the People (?)**

### **XI. Communion Song CP #172 “Gather Your People” (Joshua Hegg)**

Gather your people, O Lord  
Gather your people, O Lord  
One bread, one body, one spirit of love  
Gather your people, O Lord

Draw us forth to the table of life  
Brothers and sisters  
Each of us called to walk in your light

Gather your people, O Lord  
Gather your people, O Lord

One bread, one body, one spirit of love  
Gather your people, O Lord

We are parts of the body of Christ  
Needing each other  
Each of the gifts the Spirit provides

Gather your people, O Lord  
Gather your people, O Lord  
One bread, one body, one spirit of love  
Gather your people, O Lord

No more harm on the mountain of God  
Swords into plowshares  
Free us, O Lord from hardness of heart

Gather your people, O Lord  
Gather your people, O Lord  
One bread, one body, one spirit of love  
Gather your people, O Lord

Wash us, Lord, in the waters of life  
Waters of mercy, waters of hope  
That flow from your side.

Gather your people, O Lord  
Gather your people, O Lord  
One bread, one body, one spirit of love  
Gather your people, O Lord

## XII. Institution of Communion (Georgeanne Bennett and Bobbi Robinson)

## XIII. Partaking Communion Together

## XIV. Blessing/Benediction

## XV. Postlude – (Joshua Hegg)



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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

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**This 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](#)
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

**Tuesday**

- 11:30 a.m. Music Jam, Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting, [Zoom](#)

**Wednesday**

- 11:30 a.m. CAIC Field Trip to 6th Street Youth Center <https://www.6thstreetcenter.org/what-we-offer>
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Koinonia Hall, Fireside
- 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper, and Service, Faith Lutheran. FCC Chico is serving soup. Bring soup to Faith Lutheran around 5:45 p.m.

**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—Daylight Saving Time Begins**

- 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

**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.