



# Easy

September 11th, 2023 Guest Preacher Gary Cantwell  
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](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.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 – (Joshua Hegg)

## II. Ringing of the Bell

## III. Welcome and Announcements – (David Hoppe)

- Today – Fellowship following service.
- Monday – 2:30 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel
- Tuesday – 2:00 p.m. WICS, Bethany, 7:00 p.m. Elders meeting, Zoom
- Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, Koinonia Hall, Fireside
- Thursday and Friday—Admin. Assistant Briony out on sick leave
- Friday—1:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Bethany
- Saturday – 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Grief Group, Spiritual Care Center
- 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 offering plate which is near the bulletins near the entrance of the sanctuary

#### **IV. Opening Hymn –CH #487 “Help Us Accept Each Other” (Joshua Hegg)**

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
We struggle to be human and search for hope and  
faith.

Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
To love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be  
moved

In living situations to do the truth in love;  
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart  
The table of forgiveness and laughter’s healing art.

Lord, for today’s encounters with all who are in need,  
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and  
bread,

We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding  
on;

Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

#### **V. Call to Worship – (David Hoppe)**

Sing praises to God, O you saints, and give thanks to  
God's holy name!

**We exalt you, O God, for you have restored us to  
life!**

We may cry through the night, but your joy comes  
with the morning.

**You hear us, O God, and you are gracious in our  
distress.**

You turn our mourning into dancing!

**Our souls cannot be silent!**

**O God, our Savior, we give thanks to you forever!**

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

#### **VII. Psalm 114 Laughing Bird Version (David Hoppe)**

When we were led out of the land of slavery  
- the people of Israel, coming out from under the  
foreign thumb -

the land of Judah became a sacred place,  
the land of Israel came under sovereign rule.

The wild sea took one look, and turned tail and ran,  
the Jordan river backed off and headed the other way.  
The mountains skipped like a rock wallaby;  
the hills were as jumpy as a kelpie pup.

What was it that made the wild sea turn tail?  
What was it that made the Jordan back off?  
What made the mountains quiver and jump?  
What made the hills shudder and shake?

It was awe of you, LORD, God of our ancestors.  
The whole earth trembles in your presence.  
For you are the one who melts rocks into pools of  
water;  
the one who brings springs bubbling up from hard  
baked ground.

### **VIII. Matthew 18:21-35 (David Hoppe)**

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his

fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

### **IX. Sermon – “Easy” (Gary Cantwell)**

### **X. Hymn of Reflection – CH #452 “Here I Am, Lord” (Joshua Hegg)**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people  
cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their  
darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you  
calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people  
in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my  
people's pain.

I have wept for love of them, they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for  
love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you  
calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people  
in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor  
and lame

I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you  
calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people  
in my heart.

## **XI. Moments for Mission (Peggy Davidson)**

## **XII. Prayers of the People**

## **XIII. 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.

**XIV. Institution of Communion (Peggy  
Davidson and Max Erwin, elders)**

**XV. Partaking Communion Together**

**XVI. Blessing/Benediction (Gary Cantwell)**

**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, and a PDF is [here](#). They can be returned in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, or sent to the church office by email, or mail.

**Annual Holiday Bazaar is Saturday, November 4th, 2023, 9 am to 1 pm.** Sign up for booths in the entrance of Koinonia Hall.

### **Stewardship Sunday is November 12th, 2023**

Stewardship letters with pledge cards have been mailed out, and electronic copies of the letter and the pledge card are on our website here: <https://www.fccchico.com/stewardship.html>. Pledge cards and envelopes are also in the pew racks in the Sanctuary. Please return the pledge card by mail, in the offering plates on Sunday mornings, or by dropping it through the church mail slot at any time before November 12th, 2023. Thank you!

## Attendance

Attendance for September 10th, 2023:

Unavailable

## Credits

- “Help Us Accept Each Other” Words: Fred Kaan, 1974. © 1975 Hope Publishing Company; Music: John Ness Beck, 1977. ©1977 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI #133756
- “Here I Am, Lord” Words: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981. Music: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. James Synder, 1994. © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music; all rights reserved; used with permission.
- “Gather Your People” Words and Music: Bob Hurd. © 1991 Bob Hurd. Published by OCP Publications. All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.
- Laughing Bird Psalm ©2002 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net
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*"No one commits suicide because they want to die."*

*"Then why do they do it?"*

*"Because they want to stop the pain."*

~Tiffanie DeBartolo, How to Kill a Rock Star

# soul shop

for Everyone

The goal of Soul Shop™ for congregations is to begin working within the church to create a network of support for those who are impacted by suicide. This faith-oriented program is designed to increase awareness of suicide and discuss the steps that can be taken to reduce risks. This workshop is for parents, police, nurses, teachers, and any other concerned citizens who might want to learn how to ask the question of suicide, learn about the prevalence of suicide in the church community, and get more engaged with how to be a part of the solution.

September 30th, 2023

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

\$25 to Register



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

295 E. Washington Ave

Chico, CA 95926

Cost

\$25

Self-registration



<https://tinyurl.com/5buua22z>

Or call 530-343-3727



Rev. Eileen Brownell, ordained by Centers for Spiritual Living is also a Chico Police Chaplain. For 16 years, she has assisted families and survivors of suicide. Alarmed by the increase, as well as seeing individuals 13-90 years take their own life, she became a certified Soul Shop trainer to work with faith communities to help prevent suicides and support survivors. Currently she is the only certified trainer in the 5 western states.

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/5buua22z>



**This Sunday—Gary Cantwell**

- 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

**Monday**

- 2:30 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel

**Tuesday**

- 2:00 p.m. WICS, Bethany
- 7:00 p.m. Elders, Zoom

**Wednesday**

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

**Friday**

- 1:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Bethany

**Saturday**

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

**Next Sunday—Pastor Jesse is back!**

- 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

Thursday, Sept. 21st and Friday, Sept. 22nd Admin.  
Assistant Briony will be out on sick leave.

**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.

## Recommendations to the Nominating Task Force Church Officers for 2024

We, the Nominating Committee, request that all members of First Christian Church, Chico seriously and prayerfully recommend those persons you believe should be asked to consider a leadership position. Indicate those names below. You may put it in the collection plate, drop it by the office or mail it to the church.

Your participation in this process is important and we appreciate your input. Please respond now while it is fresh in your mind. **Please consider the desired Leadership qualities and gifts for serving as listed below:**

**Board Moderator:** Be objective and able to listen to all sides; open to hearing all perspectives and ideas; able to keep a meeting on the subject at hand; be a calming influence.

**Vice-Moderator:** In the absence of the Board Moderator, presides at congregational and Church Board meetings and carries out all other duties of the Board Moderator. Appoints a chair of the Diaconate and assists with recruitment and training of the Diaconate. Oversees the Elders and Personnel Committee.

**Board Secretary:** Able to hear what is being said at the meeting, and record the meeting activities and actions.

**Church Treasurer:** Timely payment of bills; correct errors in a timely manner; work closely with leadership; be transparent and open; must maintain confidentiality.

**Congregational Life Ministry Coordinator:** Coordinates the Christian education, membership, worship arts, fellowship and program ministries.

**Outreach Ministry Coordinator:** Coordinates evangelism, missional outreach, and Regional/General Church relations.

**Administrative Ministry Coordinator:** Coordinates the administrative ministries of the church including business and property.

**At Large Board Member:** Interested in the life of the church, and committed to its future thriving.

**Elders:** Willing to help care for the spiritual needs of the congregation, as a part of the shared ministry of the church; committed to being equipped and to equip others; have a desire to grow spiritually, and to help others grow in their faith.

**Financial Secretary:** A numbers person; confidential, organized and efficient.

**Ass't. Financial Secretary:** Same as Financial Secretary.

**Personnel Committee Member:** Able to look at staff as employees; have an understanding and experience in business practices; listen to congregational concerns; work closely and communicate with the Pastoral Relations Committee.

**Endowment Trustee:** An understanding of financial practices; has a passion for developing planned giving programs within the congregation.

—Nominating Committee

I prayerfully recommend...

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Board Moderator                           | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Vice Moderator                            | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Board Secretary                           | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Church Treasurer                          | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Congregational Life Ministry Coordinator: | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Outreach Ministry Coordinator:            | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Administrative Ministry Coordinator:      | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| At Large Board Member                     | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Elder                                     | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Financial Secretary                       | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Asst. Financial Secretary                 | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Personnel Committee                       | _____ |
|   | _____ |
| Endowment Trustee                         | _____ |
|   | _____ |

From the FCC Bylaws, Article VII Section C: Additional nominees for any office may be made from the congregation in this manner: With the approval of the nominee, a petition signed by at least ten (10) active members shall be in the hands of the nominating committee at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the annual election. If such additional nominations are made, the committee shall announce to the congregation the revised slate, including all nominees for each vacancy.

**Please return the completed form either by the collection plate on Sunday morning, dropping it off at the church office, or mailing it to the church. Thank you!**