

# FCC CONNECTIONS

## Under the Fig Tree - Revelation 16: The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath



This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday which begins Holy Week prior to Easter; a week that reminds us no matter what Jesus taught or what Jesus did there were some that refused to see God in him or in other words refused to see the good in him. They further reasoned that he was evil and would be the ruin of Israel. They had an image of savior and Jesus was just not it. Revelation; which we have been studying, has a similar problem with the worship of false Gods but John was very clear about evil and represented it in all of its madness, destruction, and chaos.

Revelation 16 describes the pouring out of seven bowls (or "vials") of God's wrath upon the earth — the final and most severe series of judgments in the book, following the seven seals and seven trumpets. This is how God deals with evil, the kind of evil that crucified Christ.

The chapter opens with a loud voice from the temple commanding seven angels to pour out their bowls. Each bowl brings a distinct plague, escalating in severity.

### The Seven Bowls

- 1st Bowl — Painful Sores (v. 2)  
Poured on the land; causes grievous sores on those who bear the mark of the beast and worship his image.
- 2nd Bowl — Sea Turns to Blood (v. 3)  
The sea becomes like the blood of a dead man; every living creature in the sea dies.
- 3rd Bowl — Rivers & Springs Turn to Blood (v. 4-7)  
Fresh water sources become blood. An angel declares this is just judgment, as these people shed the blood of saints and prophets.
- 4th Bowl — Scorching Sun (v. 8-9)  
The sun is given power to scorch people with fire. Despite intense suffering, people curse God rather than repent.
- 5th Bowl — Darkness on the Beast's Kingdom (v. 10-11)  
Darkness falls on the throne of the beast. People gnaw their tongues in agony but still refuse to repent.
- 6th Bowl — Euphrates Dried Up (v. 12-16)  
The Euphrates River dries up to prepare the way for "the kings from the East." Three unclean spirits (like frogs) emerge from the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet, performing signs to gather kings for the battle of Armageddon (v. 16 — the only explicit mention of the word in the Bible).
- 7th Bowl — Catastrophic Earthquake & Hail (v. 17-21)  
Poured into the air; a voice from the throne declares "It is done!" A massive earthquake splits "the great city" (Babylon) into three parts, islands and mountains disappear, and enormous hailstones fall. Still, people curse God.

## Worship March 29, 2026

Welcome  
Prayer & Lord's Prayer  
Praise Song— "*Hosanna (Praise is Rising)*"  
Scripture: Revelation 15  
Sermon: Preparing for the Day of Battle  
Pastor Lew Champ  
Worship Song— "*Holy Forever*"  
Intercessory Prayers  
Communion Song— "*Your Great Name*"  
Eucharist  
Thanksgiving Prayer  
Offering  
Doxology  
Announcements  
Closing Song— "*Sunday Is Coming*"  
Benediction





**Lectionary Readings**

*Liturgy of the Palms*

**March 29, 2025**

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

*This Sunday,  
March 29*

Scripture: Revelation 15  
Sermon: Preparing for the Day of Battle  
Pastor Lew Champ



**Prayer  
Intercessors**

Meet every  
Sunday morning  
at 9:00 am



**NEW CONCERNS –**

Dee Holland had her 2nd breast cancer surgery today.

Phil Holland tore ligaments in his arm and shoulder getting out of a truck last week and is in a brace.

Kay Gentry had surgery to have a pacemaker put in on 3/25. Please keep Kay and Keith in your prayers.

Brenda Palmer will be having surgery on 4/16 to remove the vein and nerve that are giving her trouble. The Palmers may need some help getting to pre-appointments on the 14th.

Anita, Sue Lovell’s friend, has a 5 year old brother in the hospital. Please pray for this family.

Pastor Lew Champ had a check up for his watchman on 3/16.

Pat McReynolds is having thyroid issues but does have some medicine she will start.

Rex Christopher arm “froze up” on 3/12 in rehab. He had an appointment on 3/17 to check his shoulder.

Bill Spicer and partner Sharon, friend of Chris Merkl, is in his mid 80s and found a large lump on his arm, which he had removed. It was cancerous and they took lymph nodes as well.

Schoenfelds, the Merk’s neighbors, daughter-in-law and son had a baby at 24 weeks. Little Oliver weighs only around a pound. Please pray for this little preemie and his parents.

Adriana, Adrian’s daughter, had a surgery near her brain and is doing well. Please pray that she can wean herself from street life.

Frances Mason fractured her left ankle. She will receive the results she has been waiting for from an MRI and Electrocardiogram on 3/17 & 3/18.

**MISSIONARY –**

Pastor Julia Chen Chou will have surgery on 3/20 to remove the lump on her pancreas, in San Francisco. It will be an 8 hour surgery, and an 8 day hospital stay.

**DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER’S –**

Please pray for everyone who is dealing with declining memory and Alzheimer’s.

**CANCER –**

Please pray for all those fighting cancer.

Bill Spicer, Alan Fisher, Dee Holland, J.R. Coberly, Christina LaBlanc, Jessie, McGrew, Mike Kerker, Malita Mahali, Nora Fanelli, Frank Hilty, Emerson, Kelly Rae Churchill, Michelle, Wade Gandee, Jeanne Klemt, Gracie Dixon, Alizar Chavez Mendoza, Lew Champ, Keith Hobson, Darren Campbell, Gary Mix, Kyle Bean, Dean Meharg, Randy Richards

**OUR CHURCH –**

Pray for the transition team, elders, and all those who will be guiding our church into the next phase of her life.

**FIRES –**

Please pray for the Nebraska wildfires situation, as of 3/24, they have lost over 827,000 acres, with 1 person reported dead.

**GRIEF –**

Lew Champ lost a good friend from Seminary, Russ Fincham. Russ passed away last week. Please keep his family and friends (and Lew) in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Russ.

**JOY –**

Rex Christopher is doing better with his shoulder, although therapy has been rough. He has another appointment in 6 weeks.

Carol Graybill is back home from Denver after back surgery and rehab. Continue to pray for Carol and Myron as she heals at home.

**CONTINUING PRAYERS –**

- Ariya Barber
- Koy
- Nettie Axtell
- Christa Barber
- Georgia
- Denise Gaynor
- Addy Bacon
- Renee (Sue Lovell’s Friend)
- Wade Pelton
- Gordon Jones
- Carole Wohlers
- Sasaki Family
- Brenda Palmer
- Randy & Christa Barber
- Kelly Hartman
- Tim (Lovell’s friend)
- Maxine McFarland
- Gene & Rita Uhler
- Liam
- Rodriquez Family

The bowls of wrath are parallel to the Plagues of Egypt — The bowls echo the Exodus plagues (water to blood, darkness, sores, etc.), framing God’s final judgment as a new Exodus. But there is Hardness of Heart — A striking refrain: despite the plagues, humanity repeatedly refuses to repent (vv. 9, 11, 21), mirroring Pharaoh. The angel’s declaration in vv. 5-7 emphasizes that God’s judgments are righteous and true. There is a cosmic finality — Unlike the seals and trumpets (which were partial), the bowls are complete and total in their scope. God has determined their will be no more evil but the forces of this world which are aligned against God gathering the world powers for the final eschatological battle at Armageddon.

“Armageddon” comes from the Hebrew Har Megiddo, meaning “Mountain of Megiddo.” It appears only once in the entire Bible — in Revelation 16:16 — making it one of the most famous yet least-mentioned terms in Scripture.

Megiddo was a real, historically significant location in northern Israel, in the Jezreel Valley (also called the Plain of Esdraelon). It was one of the most strategically important sites in the ancient Near East because:

- It controlled a major trade and military route between Egypt and Mesopotamia
- It was the site of numerous major battles throughout history
- Egyptian pharaohs, Assyrians, Israelites, and others all fought there
- Even Napoleon reportedly called it the most natural battlefield in the world

In context, Armageddon is where demonic spirits (from the dragon, beast, and false prophet) gather the kings of the earth for the great battle on the Day of God Almighty. It represents the ultimate confrontation between the forces of evil and God. We know who wins but for just a moment also consider Golgotha the mount of Jesus' crucifixion, as Armageddon. All the forces of evil conspire to put Jesus on the cross. Who will win this terrible battle? We must go through this so we can cheer with joy on the day of victory.

Come join us this Palm Sunday.

### LINKS TO LAST SUNDAY’S SERVICE

**Facebook FULL Service — Available for a few weeks:**

<https://www.facebook.com/fccsterlingcolorado/videos/1302083205160491>

**YouTube ONLY Sermon — Always Available:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Vu9Z65hWIE>

### SERVING SCHEDULE

Date	Usher	Preparing Deacon	Elder
March 29	Tammy Sonnenberg	Tammy Sonnenberg	Mark Pelton
April 5	Julie Sonnenberg	Pam Ferdig	Nena Russell

## First Christian Church

**Our Mission**—To make more and better Christians for the sake of the world.

**Our Vision**—We seek to be a faithful Christian community with a deep love for God and others.



03/29 Marv Ferdig

04/03 Amy Sonnenberg



## CONTACT US

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PLEASE NOTE:  
the emails end in .COM  
In your email contacts, please  
remove the church emails that  
end in .ORG as they have not



# Coming Up

## Sunday, March 29

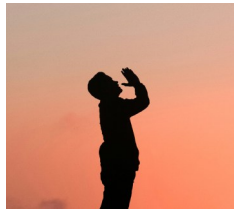
- o Palm Sunday 10 AM Worship
- o Helping Hands Sunday
- o Easter Special Offering



*Hosanna!  
Hosanna!*

## Tuesday, March 31

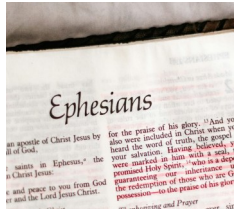
- o 9:30 AM Men's Prayer Group  
*(Biscuits & Gravy Day)*



*God, I  
thank you  
today...*

## Wednesday, April 1

- o 10 AM Bible Study Fellowship  
*Ephesians*



*Put on the  
full armor  
of God...*

## Thursday, April 2

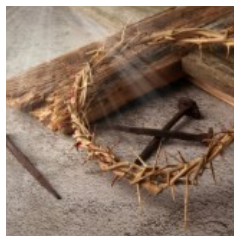
- o Maundy Thursday  
6 PM Covered Dish Dinner  
Not a Fan Bible Study



*Take.  
Eat.  
Remember.*

## Friday, April 3

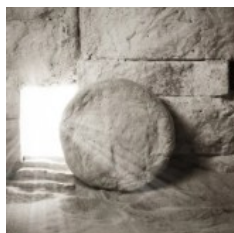
- o Good Friday  
Church Center will be open for  
prayer from 6 AM—6 PM



*It is Finished*

## Sunday, April 5

- o Easter Sunday 10 AM Worship
- o Easter Special Offering



*He is not here  
He has risen*



March 29<sup>th</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month which means we will be collecting offerings for our Helping Hands Fund.



The Easter Offering provides vital support for the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

# MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2ND | 6:00 PM



Covered Dish Supper followed by *Not a Fan* Bible Study

# *Ressurrection Day*

**Easter Sunday Worship**

April 5, 2026 | 10:00 AM



# Easter Lilies

## IN HONOR OF:

<b>Our Children, Grand Children, &amp; Great Grandchild</b>	Lew & Linda Champ
<b>LeRoy McReynolds</b>	Bill McReynolds
<b>Our Families</b>	Sam & Julie Sonnenberg
<b>Our Family</b>	James & Wanda Vallejos
<b>Bill Zwirn</b>	Phil & Dee Holland
<b>Our Children &amp; Spouses</b>	Lynn & Sue Lovell

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

<b>Terry &amp; Marlene Tatman</b>	Lew & Linda Champ
<b>Our Parents</b>	Sam & Julie Sonnenberg
<b>Howard Williams</b>	Della, Deanne & Pam & Families
<b>Dolores Holland</b>	Phil & Dee Holland
<b>Our Lost Family Members</b>	Mark & Linda Pelton

