

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, January 6, 2019

Prelude J. Pachelbel
Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan

Welcome

Introit ADESTE FIDELES
Venite Adoramus
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship adapted from J. Grant & M. Tirabassi
Leader: We enter into worship under the light of
God's star.

People: We follow in the path
of wandering seekers of long ago.

Leader: We have experienced Christmas.

People: Now we seek to center its meaning in
our lives.

Leader: Our prayers, our songs, our hopes, even
our fears are holy through God's gift of
love.

People: Let us worship the Light
that has come into the world!

Hymn 161 WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET
O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

O Morning Star, how fair and bright, your beams
shine forth in truth and light! Our Sovereign meek
and lowly! O Root of Jesse, Promised One, our only
Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you solely!
You are holy, great and glorious, all victorious, rich in
blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine, and deep
within our hearts now shine; there light a flame undy-
ing! In your one body let us be as living branches of
a tree, your life our lives supplying. Longing for you

does possess us; turn and bless us; here in sadness eye
and heart long for your gladness.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) adapted from T. Shuman
We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often
we end up settling for the dimness of temptation.
Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not al-
ways pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires,
rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of
wealth, success, and fulfillment, rather than those of
servanthood, compassion, and peace. Forgive us,
that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your
grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so
long ago, who found hope, grace and salvation in
your Son. Hear our prayers...(*moments for silent reflec-*
tions)

Words of Assurance

Anthem traditional Spanish
Fum, Fum, Fum

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive
us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not in-
to temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn 162 KINGS OF ORIENT
We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse
afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following
yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with
royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceed-
ing, guide us to they perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to
crown him again, King forever, ceasing never over us

all to reign. O star of wonder, star of night, star with
royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceed-
ing, guide us to they perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity
nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping
God on high. O star of wonder, star of night, star
with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still pro-
ceeding, guide us to they perfect light.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of
gathering gloom: sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dy-
ing, sealed in the stone cold tomb. O star of wonder,
star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward
leading, still proceeding, guide us to they perfect
light.

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and
Sacrifice; Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth
and skies. O star of wonder, star of night, star with
royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceed-
ing, guide us to they perfect light.

Offertory *Ya viene la vieja* traditional Spanish
Here comes the old lady with a little gift.

It seems so much for her, that she takes some of it away.

Chorus: Little green leaves, lemon leaves,
The Virgin Mary, mother of the Savior.

Here come the Kings through the desert,
And they bring to the Child a real tower. Chorus

Here come the Kings down this road,
And they bring the Child sweet cakes and wine. Chorus.

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:1-12
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Peter Wiley

Sacrament of Holy Communion
Table of Life Steve Angrisano

*Everyone is welcome to share in this meal.
Please serve one another the gluten free, tree nut and pea-
nut free bread,
and eat as you are served symbolizing your individual need
for Christ.
Hold the cup of juice until all are served,
that we may express our unity in Christ by drinking to-
gether.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn 160 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every-
where; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is
born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks
by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a
holy light.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every-
where; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is
born!**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above
the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Sav-
ior's birth.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every-
where; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is
born!**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas
morn.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every-
where; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is
born!**

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude J. Pachelbel

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern