



Empty and Waiting



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHICO
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

December 27th, 2020
Pastor Jesse Kearns

AGREE TO DIFFER * RESOLVE TO LOVE * UNITE TO SERVE
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Credits at end of bulletin*

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 (Pastor Jesse)

- Zoom Check-In on Tuesday at 1:00
- Board Meeting Tuesday at 7:00
- Bible Study on Thursday at 7:00
- Sacred Grounds, 9:00 next Sunday
- Worship, 10:00 next Sunday

III. Opening Hymn – CH #172 “We Three Kings”

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts
we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor
and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, star
with royal beauty bright, west-ward
leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy
perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I
bring to crown him again, King forever,
ceasing never, over us all to reign.

3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense
owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising,
voices raising, worshiping God on high.

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume,
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed
in the stone cold tomb.

5. Glorious now behold him arise; Christ
and God and sacrifice: alleluia, alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, star
with royal beauty bright, west-ward
leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy
perfect light.

IV. Call to Worship – (Joe Rogers)

**From, *After the Annunciation* by
Madeleine L'Engle:**

**This is the irrational season where love
blooms bright and wild.**

**If Mary had been filled with reason,
there would have been no room for the
child.**

**Let us gather to make room for the baby
whose birth changes everything.**

AMEN!

**V. A reading from poet Christine Rodgers
(Joe Rogers):**

*To Become the Emptiness
That We Can Receive*

**It is Mary's
emptiness**

**her willingness
to create
the largest
possible
space**

which allows her

**to carry
the seed
of God.**

**This emptiness
is our task
too.**

**God is asking
to be planted
in each
and every
one of us.**

**Now
more than
ever before**

**we must carry
the seed of God
into the world.**

Poem repented with permission

VI. Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV – (Mary Kearns)

On the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

VII. Sermon - "Empty and Waiting" (Rev. Georgeanne Bennett)

**VIII. Song of Reflection Song of Reflection
CH # 173 "As With Gladness"**

As with gladness sages bold
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward beaming bright
So, true Morning Star may we
Evermore your splendor see

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lovely manger bed
There to bend the knee before
One whom heaven and earth adore
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek your mercy seat

As they offered gifts most rare
At the manger plain and bare
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy
All our costliest treasures bring
Christ, to you from whom they spring.

IX. Moment for Mission – (???)

X. Prayers of the People – (Mary Kearns)

XI. Communion Song # 159 “There’s a Song in the Air!”

There’s a song in the air!

There’s a star in the sky!

There’s a mother’s deep prayer and a baby’s
low cry!

And the star rains its fire while the angel
choirs sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!

There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful
birth,
for the Virgin’s sweet boy is the Lord of the
earth.

See, the star rains its fire while the angel
choirs sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the
song
that comes down through the night from
the heavenly throng,
and we greet in the cradle
our savior and king.

**XII. Institution of Communion (Elders
Barbara Meade and Jacky Smith)**

XIII. Blessing/Benediction

XIV. Postlude - (Joshua Hegg)

XV. Fellowship Time in breakout rooms.

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

Calendar

January 3rd-10th, 2021

This Sunday

- 9:00 a.m.-Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, [Zoom](#)
- 10:00 a.m.-Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)

Tuesday

- 1:00 p.m.-Weekly Check-in, [Zoom](#)
- 5:00 p.m.-Church Board Meeting, [Zoom](#)

Wednesday – Epiphany!



Thursday

- 7:00 p.m.-Bible Study, [Zoom](#)
[Study Questions on website](#)

Next Sunday

- 9:00 a.m.-Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, [Zoom](#)
- 10:00 a.m.-Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)

Credits

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