



Anaheim First Presbyterian Church

January 9, 2022 @ 10:30 am

PRELUDE

We Three Kings

arr. Fred Bock

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this place—

each of us on our own path.

The path is winding and not always clear,

The path changes, but we are here.

God is walking us home.

What a gift it is to not walk alone.

Let us worship our Holy God.

HYMN NO 63 (v. 1, 2, 3)

As With Gladness Men of Old

Dix

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold:

As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;

So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to the lowly manger bed,

There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore;

So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;

So may we with holy joy, Pure, and free of sin's alloy,

All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of changed plans, the Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way.

We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter. Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy. Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation. Guide our steps to unfamiliar places.

ANTHEM

Jesu Parvulé (Poor Little Jesus)

Alfred Burt

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

Home By Another Way

ACT OF COMMITMENT: STAR WORDS

Those in the Sanctuary will be invited to come forward to select a star from the table. For those worshipping at home, a slide will appear with numbers and words. Your star word for 2022 will be the one next to your birthdate.

PRAYER

God of ink black skies and starry nights, like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. And step by step, you have claimed us, loved us, and fed us.

Today we have all drawn star words. For some of us, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives. So as a new year dawns, we pray that you would be in our dreams and in our waking. Allow us to use these star words as a tool to see you in our everyday life.

May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi. May they illuminate your path, as light always does. And may they guide us on new paths into a new hope. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN

Home by Another Way

Lyrics by Anna Strickland

Magi from a faraway place, radiant starlight setting their pace

Fording wadi, risking body, seeking the king's birthplace

Refrain: O We have traveled night and day, meeting God where-e'er we stay
Paths are changing, rearranging, as we find another way

Threatened by the good news they bring, Herod plots to kill the new king

Angels warning in the morning; "Avoid Jerusalem" [Refrain]

Plans that change and storms that delay, Dreams and hopes left in disarray

Make us tremble, but remember, there is another way. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Alas, My God

arr. J.G. Walther

Today's Worship Leaders:

Kim Skilling, Pastor

David Hughes, Director of Music,

Carol Hughes, Accompanist

Abbott Hatch & Richard Ramich, Video and Sound

Worship Prayers by Rev. Sarah Speed, sanctifiedart.org