

Sunday, December 17, 2023, 9:30 am

Prelude – Shofar Brass

*Call to Worship

*God's Greeting

*Mutual Greeting

***"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3 And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Edmund H. Sears, Richard S. Willis
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***"Once in Royal David's City"**

1 Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, and meek, and lowly
Lived on earth, our Savior holy.

3 For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day like us He grew.
He was little, weak, and helpless;
Tears and smiles like us He knew.
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above.
And He leads His children on
To the place where He has gone.

Cecil F. Alexander, Henry J. Gauntlett
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Reading from Isaiah 7:14, 60:1-3

***“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art:
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley, Rowland H. Prichard; arr. by Robert Harkness
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Baptism of Esther Geldersma

(Jesus Loves Me – Played by Zeke and Luke Geldersma)

***“Promises”**

1 God of Abraham,
You’re the God of covenant,
Of faithful promises.
Time and time again
You have proven
You do just what You say.

Pre-Chorus

Though the storms may come
And the winds may blow,
I’ll remain steadfast.
And let my heart learn
When You speak a word,
It will come to pass.

Chorus

Great is Your faithfulness to me.
Great is Your faithfulness to me.
From the rising sun
To the setting same,
I will praise Your name.
Great is Your faithfulness to me.

2 God, from age to age,
Though the earth may pass away,
Your word remains the same.
Your history can prove

There's nothing You can't do.
You're faithful and true.

Bridge

I put my faith in Jesus,
My anchor to the ground.
My hope and firm foundation,
He'll never let me down.

Lemuel Martin, Joe L. Barnes, Dante Bowe, Aaron Moses, Phillip Carrington Gaines, and Keila Alvarado

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Offering **Hand 2 Hand**

Offertory by Shofar Brass

Time for Prayer

Bible Reading: Luke 12:35-48

Sermon: "Everyone who has been given much...much will be demanded"

Prayer

***"We Give Thee But Thine Own"**

1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone-
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2 May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give.

Amen.

William W. How

Music: Mason and Webb's Cantica Laudis, 1850

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***God's Blessing**

***"Doxology"**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Thomas Ken

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Members please remain in the sanctuary and be seated for an important, brief Congregational Meeting.