

## Sunday, December 31, 2023, 9:30 am

\*Call to Worship

\*God's Greeting

\*Mutual Greeting

\*Songs: **"Love Has Come!"**

1 Love has come- a light in the darkness!  
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2 Love is born! Come share in the wonder;  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3 Love has come- He never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us;  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible; Music: French carol melody; attr. Saboly, 17th c.; arr. Tom Fettke  
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\***"We Three Kings"**

1 We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar-  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain-  
Following yonder star.

Chorus

O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward 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.

5 Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Earth to heav'n replies.

John H. Hopkins, Jr.  
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**\*“As with Gladness Men of Old”**

1 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 Your splendor see.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at that 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, our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds Your glory hide.

W. Chatterton Dix  
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Prayer

Offering: Hand 2 Hand

Song during offering: **“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”**

1 Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,  
When Thou camest to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room  
For Thy holy nativity.

Refrain

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus—  
There is room in my heart for Thee!

2 Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;  
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,  
And in great humility.

4 Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word  
That should set Thy people free;  
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn  
They bore Thee to Calvary.

5 When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing  
At Thy coming to victory,  
Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room -  
There is room at My side for thee."  
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus -  
When Thou comest and callest for me!

Emily E.S. Elliott, Timothy R. Matthews  
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Time for Prayer

Bible Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: **“Those Magi”**

Prayer

**\*“In Christ There Is No East or West”**

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no pride of birth;  
he chosen family God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.

2 For God in Christ has made us one from every land and race;  
He reconciled us through His Son and met us with His grace.

3 It is by grace we are assured that we belong to Him;  
the love we share in Christ our Lord, the Spirit works within.

4 So, brothers, sisters, praise His name who died to set us free  
from sin, division, hate, and shame, from spite and enmity.

5 In Christ there is no east or west, He breaks all barriers down;  
by Christ redeemed, by Christ possessed, in Christ we live as one.

Michael A. Perry  
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**\*God's Blessing**

**\*“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”**

1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.  
Let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O direct us and protect us, traveling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration for Your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to Your truth may we be found.

John Fawcett  
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