**Sunday, December 15, 2024, 9:30 am**

\*Call to Worship (Jeff)

SAVE: Jeff – make an announcement about Candlelight at 5pm this evening. ( This does not go in the bulletin.

\*God’s Greeting (Jeff)

\*Mutual Greeting (Jeff)

\*Songs: **“Praise Him! Praise Him!”**

1 Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O earth, His wonderful love proclaim!
Hail Him! Hail Him! highest archangels in glory,
strength and honor give to His holy Name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children;
in His arms He carries them all day long.

Chorus
Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness;
Praise Him! Praise Him, ever in joyful song.

3 Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Heavenly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever.
Crown Him! Crown Him, Prophet and Priest and King!
Christ is coming, over the world victorious;
power and glory unto the Lord belong!

Fanny J. Crosby, Chester G. Allen

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\***“He Leadeth Me”**

1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought!

O words with heav’nly comfort fraught!

Whate'er I do, where'er I be,

Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, He leadeth me;

By His own hand He leadeth me:

His faithful foll’wer I would be,

For by His hand He leadeth me.

2 Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine,

Nor ever murmur nor repine,

Content, whatever lot I see,

Since 'tis Thy hand that leadeth me.

3 And when my task on earth is done,

When, by Thy grace, the victory's won,

E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,

Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Joseph H. Gilmore, William B. Bradbury

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\***“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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Offering: Benevolent Fund (Jeff)

Song during offering: Shofar Brass

Children’s Message (Gord Vander Ark)

**“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.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus—
There is room in my heart for Thee!
Emily E.S. Elliott, Timothy R. Matthews

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Time for Prayer (Bob VH)

Bible Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon: Preparing the Way – Advent: Comfort

Prayer (Jeff)

\***“Children of the Heavenly Father”**

1 Children of the heav’nly Father

Safely in His bosom gather;

Nestling bird nor star in heaven

Such a refuge e’er was given.

2 God His own doth tend and nourish;

In His holy courts they flourish.

From all evil things He spares them;

In His mighty arms He bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever

From the Lord His children sever;

Unto them His grace He showeth,

And their sorrows all He knoweth.

4 Tho’ He giveth or He taketh,

God His children ne’er forsaketh;

His the loving purpose solely

To preserve them pure and holy.

Carolina Sandell Berg; translated by Ernst W. Olson

Traditional Swedish Melody

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\*God's Blessing (Jeff)

\***“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

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

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior‘s birth.

3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and brought us God’s salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

John W. Work

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