

Waupun United Methodist Church, Waupun, WI  
Worship Music – 12/5/2021

**Lead Me, Guide Me**

**Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

Bible Reading

Genesis 28:10-17

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. 12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And the **Lord** stood beside him and said, "I am the **Lord**, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; 14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. 15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the **Lord** is in this place—and I did not know it!" 17 And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**Holy Ground**

**We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;  
let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

**Surely the Presence**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;  
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

**Nearer My God, to Thee**

**Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down, darkness be over me, my rest a stone;  
yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee;  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**

**There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;  
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given; angels to beckon me  
nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**

**Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,  
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise; so by my woes to be  
nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**

Advent Wreath Prayers: Peace

In John 14:27, Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

*Two blue candles are lit.*

Prince of Peace, reveal yourself to us today. We need peace in our lives, our homes, our families, our church, and our whole world. Help us to slow down and seek out the peace you provide, so we may become peacemakers for ourselves and others. In your name, Prince of Peace, we pray. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Luke 1:5-25

<sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup> Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup> Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup> You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." <sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." <sup>19</sup> The angel replied, "I am

Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup> When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup> When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>24</sup> After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, <sup>25</sup> “This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people. (NRSV)

### **Song of Thanksgiving (Red #236 – Refrain)**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

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### **Prayers of the People**

St. Paul writes, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Compassionate Father, today we bring before you those with whom we share the closest relationships—members of our families. How we long for you to be gracious on behalf of our children, our parents, our siblings and our extended families. We believe that you will—

**Turn the hearts of parents to their children.**

Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon the people we cherish. For our children, siblings and parents who don’t know you, bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus. For our family members who are living destructive lives, save them from themselves. In the meandering of their madness, bring the grandeur of your goodness. We believe that you will—

**Turn the hearts of children to their parents.**

Tender Father, for family members who are having failing health, financial stress, emotional stress or mental illness, marital meltdown or relational disconnect, pour forth your life-giving Spirit. Where there is weariness, bring your presence; where there is hopelessness, bring encouragement; where there is despair, be a mighty and merciful God. We believe that you will—

**Turn the hearts of children to their parents.**

To make ready a people prepared. We pray in the matchless and merciful name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

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

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

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

**The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.**

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

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

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