



Song Notes (pun intended!) for this morning's service:

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

This hymn is attributed to Englishwoman Dorothy Thrupp (1779-1847), and it is found in over 1,000 English hymnals. It first appeared in *Thrupp's Hymnals for the Young* and like many hymns and songs that are now meaningful to adults, it was written for children and develops the shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. This imagery and theology, and the focus on Jesus' loving care and guidance, is why it is one of the most recognized and beloved hymns across denominational lines.

The person who requested this said, "This is the first hymn I can recall as a kid, when I got to go to "big church"—not just Sunday school!"

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley was a prolific hymn writer of the 18th century. Coming from a musical family, he left a lasting legacy of congregational song.

The youngest of 18 children—brother John, the 15th child, became an itinerant preacher and founder of the Methodist movement—Charles possessed prodigious talents that soon blossomed. It is estimated that during his lifetime, Wesley penned more than 9,000 poems of a spiritual nature, 6,000 of which are hymns. Little did he know that *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* would rise to become one of the most popular and consistently vocalized Christian songs.

This hymn, like many of Wesley's hymns, focuses on God's boundless love for us in Christ. While many hymns were used as teaching tools, this one is composed in the form of a prayer, petitioning for God's loving presence and redemption—present redemption and final redemption in glory.

The person who requested this hymn said, "The words and tune—love them!"

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Don't get seasick singing this hymn! The brilliance of this hymn by Samuel T. Francis (1834–1925) is that the image of God's love "as a mighty ocean" is mirrored in the tune and note-shape. It literally rolls up and down like waves. God's love "surpasses knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19)—or, "vast is the ocean of God's blessing" as the hymn says. The significance of this message is made all the more meaningful by the fact that, as a teenager, Samuel T. Francis struggled with suicidal thoughts. His meditation on Jesus' love for him helped him arrive in a place of knowing that his life had meaning, and that God loved him personally. Throughout his 92 years, he wrote hymns and poems and left a legacy of spreading the Good News of God's love, in song.

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Another hymn from the Wesley family! John Wesley became acquainted with the Moravians (German protestants, revivalists) during his voyage to the American colonies in Georgia in 1737. He was soon very interested in this group, and upon returning to London continued to meet with them.

On the trip to Georgia, he was introduced to this hymn by the famous Lutheran pastor and hymn writer Paul Gerhardt. Wesley was so taken by the hymn that he translated all 16 stanzas into English, and even mentioned it in his final sermon before leaving Georgia, "A Plain Account of Christian Perfection," quoting the second stanza as "his heart's cry."

The tune, named for a 4th century martyr (St. Catherine), comes out of the Roman Catholic revival movement of the mid-19th century.

A beautiful expression of desire to dwell in God's love, this hymn is based on Ephesians 3:18-19: *I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

The person who requested this hymn said, "The words express perfectly my prayer to be filled with God's love in everything."

PRELUDE

Invention 4 in D Minor, J.S. Bach

Invention 13 in A Minor, J.S. Bach

- Ian Alvarez & Curt Cheever, Marimba

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—inspired by Psalm 23

In the darkest valley,
at the banquet table;
in the hard work of life,
at the moments of ease;
in our day-to-day reality,
at times set aside—
like this time, now—
for worship, for listening, for paying attention;
with every step we take:
goodness and mercy follow us;
our cups overflow.

HYMN *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (#187)*

Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us;
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours: in love befriend us;
be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us;
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

Early let us seek your favor;
early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us; love us still.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, you have indeed loved us, and you do love us still. We confess how hard it is to believe that, and to dwell fully in your love for us. Remove our blinders and correct our false beliefs about you and about ourselves, that we may truly know your love, and learn how to love as you do.

(moment for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The wideness of God's mercy,
the range of God's forgiveness,
the infinite love of God,
the Heart of hope which is never empty:
All these gifts are ours,
as God restores us to the fullness of life meant for us.

**Grounded in love, rooted in discipleship,
we offer ourselves in service to others,
recognizing the limitless grace
which is ours to share in Christ.**

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (#366)*

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 1 John 4:16-19
 Ephesians 3:14-21

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J.S. Bach, arr. Mario Gaetano
- Curt Cheever, solo marimba

MESSAGE **Rooted and Grounded in Love**

HYMN ***O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus***

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of his love,
leading onward, leading homeward,
to that glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
spread his praise from shore to shore!
He who loves us, ever loves us,
changes never, nevermore;
he, who died to save his loved ones,
intercedes for them above;
he, who called them his own people,
watches over them in love.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
love of every love the best,
vast the ocean of his blessing,
sweet the haven of his rest!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus--
for my heaven of heavens is he;
this my everlasting glory--
Jesus' mighty love for me!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.*

HYMN ***Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me (#703)***

Jesus, thy boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee,
and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live;
myself to thee entirely give.
O grant that nothing in my soul
may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole,
my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away
where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

POSTLUDE

Xylophonia by Joe Green, arr. Austin Wiegand
- Ryan Templin, solo xylophone

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21