

## Day 4

 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

 Read slowly through the hymn's lyrics that you have sung each day, meditating on the words & depth

 How does this hymn help you to experience the comfort that Christ gives us through his coming? Which lines/words help?

Think again of others around you - who desperately need Christ's comfort from their sins, sorrows, and miseries! The gospel message continues to ring out, *"Bidding all men to repentance, Since the kingdom is now here."*

 Thank God for the comfort & peace from our Rescuing King. And ask him to grant repentance, a turning to our King, to those you mentioned

Some helpful tips for using this advent devotion:

- ⇒ Think ahead about **when & where** (pick the same day/time/place in your house)
- ⇒ **Sing with eagerness together!** Sing a capella or use the recording online. Lead your family in singing; by the end of the week, you'll all know it better!
- ⇒ If you live alone, **reach out** to those around you to share this together - in person or over the phone/zoom.
- ⇒ Parents: **Involve your children** at an age-appropriate level! Help them to sing with you, listen quietly, answer basic questions, read the passage, be the 'keeper' of this devotional, pray.
- ⇒ **Invite others** who may be isolated from church. Share this with a friend & invite them to do this in their home parallel to you.
- ⇒ Keep at it. If you miss a day on week 1, just get back to it on week 2!



*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David"*

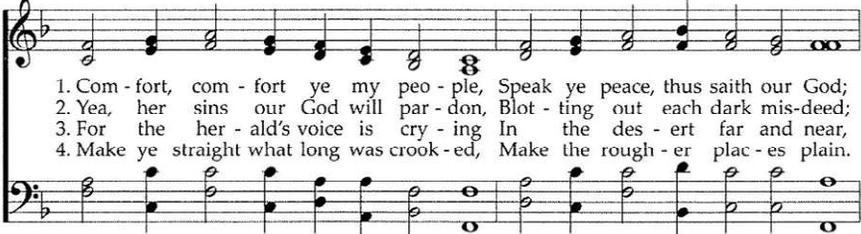
*Luke 1:68-69*



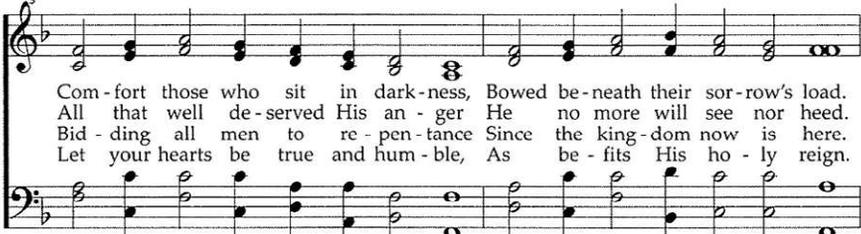
Week 4

## Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

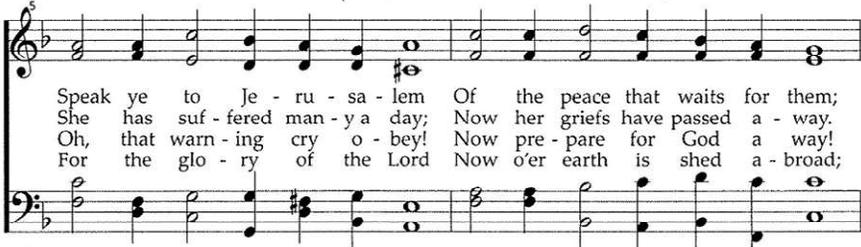
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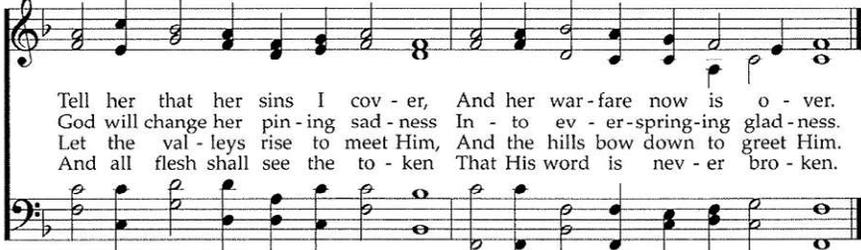
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each dark mis-deed;  
3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,  
4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Bowed be - neath their sor - row's load.  
All that well de - served His an - ger He no more will see nor heed.  
Bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance Since the king - dom now is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits His ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
She has suf - fered man - y a day; Now her griefs have passed a - way.  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!  
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



Tell her that her sins I cov - er, And her war - fare now is o - ver.  
God will change her pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
Let the val - leys rise to meet Him, And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That His word is nev - er bro - ken.

Music: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; harm. Johann Crüger, 1658

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

AINSI QU'ON OIT LE CERF [GENEVAN 42]

87. 87. 77. 88.



**Sing together** this week's song, either a capella or along with the musicians' recording on our website.



**Read aloud** the passage listed.



**Respond** by discussing, meditating, and praying. Use the provided prompt and/or discuss as you want.



**Pray** together about what you read & discussed

*It's as simple as it looks - just sing, read, respond, and pray.*

## Day 1



"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"



Isaiah 35



Even the land rejoices at God's transforming power! Verses 3-4 call out to the **weak, feeble, & anxious** - to be **strong & fear not**. Because our God IS coming! And because he HAS come! **How do you feel weak, feeble, anxious? And how does looking to Christ's two comings give you strength?**

Notice the radiant picture of what awaits us in verse 10! Read it slowly again. What do you **eagerly long** for in this description of our arrival in the new creation?



Pray together, acknowledging weakness & anxiety, asking for strength. And longingly pray for the everlasting joy that awaits!

## Day 2



"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"



Matthew 1:18-25



There sometimes is a lot in a name. What reason does the angel give for naming the child 'Jesus'? (Jesus literally means "Yahweh/God saves".) Matthew then quotes Isaiah 7 that the child will be called 'Immanuel' - what does this name mean?

What does the name **Jesus** tell you about **why he came**? And what does the name **Immanuel** tell you about **who he is**?

Jesus' birth is nothing less than God coming to be with us, his people. **How does this cause you to feel & react?**



Thank God for sending Jesus, our Immanuel! Express your emotions & reactions to him in prayer.

## Day 3



"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"



Read Hebrews 11:1-2, 32-40



"Faith consists simply in taking God at his Word and directing our lives accordingly." (F.F. Bruce) Are there things you SAY you believe about God and his promises in Jesus **but you struggle to direct your life accordingly?**

The Greek word for "assurance" is often translated as "substance" (11:1). Even if his promises **are not yet visible, they are real**. Righteousness. Holiness. Peace. Real!

How does seeing these OT believers look in faith to the "substance" (Jesus) **help you have faith in the not-yet-visible?**



Ask God to grant you each "substantial faith" amidst the not-yet-visible