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GraceFallsChurchVA



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Grace Falls Church

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

The Season of Advent is the four weeks leading to Christmas. During Advent God's Word prepares us to once again welcome the Savior of the Nations at Christmas, and to prepare to welcome him at his Second Coming. This year Grace's Midweek Advent theme is "Advent Amid COVID-19." May God use this Advent meditation to encourage us in our following of him.

WELCOME

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF THE TRIUNE GOD —based on Isaiah 40:3

Pastor Kevin: A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

As we worship tonight, let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.

Let us worship God.

HYMN:

"Comfort, Comfort All My People"

WE ARE RENEWED IN REPENTANCE —based on Isaiah 40:1,2

Pastor Kevin: A call to confession:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Let us make our confession to God:

All:

Our prayer of confession:

**While we ask, Lord, for a most meaningful Advent season,
we sadly confess having done so little with so much.**

Forgive us, Lord,

for not coming to you in prayer,

for not reading your Word,

for not searching our hearts,

for not facing our sins.

Gracious Lord, forgive us according to your tender mercy!

Grant us a fresh sense of your peace, and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of your glory. Amen.

Pastor Kevin: The assurance of God's forgiveness:
"Comfort, comfort my people," says our God.
Your sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

MESSAGE THEME: "Advent Amid COVID-19: Let's Sin-Distance"
based on Hebrews 12:1-3

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ADVENT PRAYER

Pastor Kevin: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and reaffirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

All: We praise You, O Lord, for keeping Your promise and sending Your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

Pastor Kevin: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use Your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

All: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Pastor Kevin: You sent Your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this Good News be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

All: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Pastor Kevin: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

All: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in Your grace, in Your power and in Your glory. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

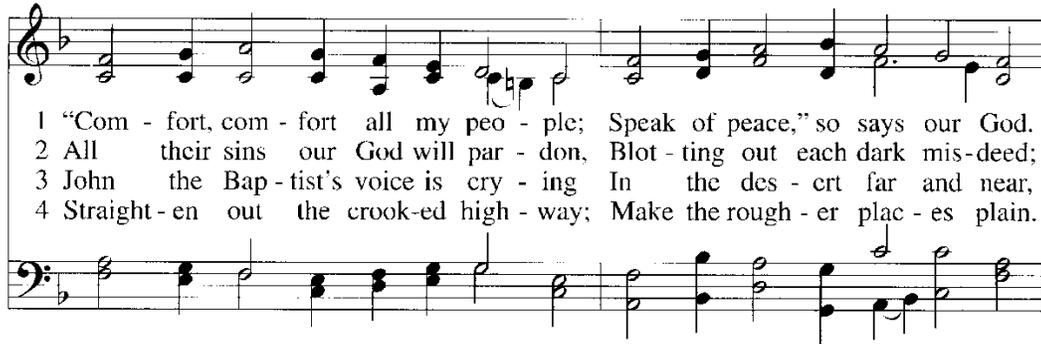
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

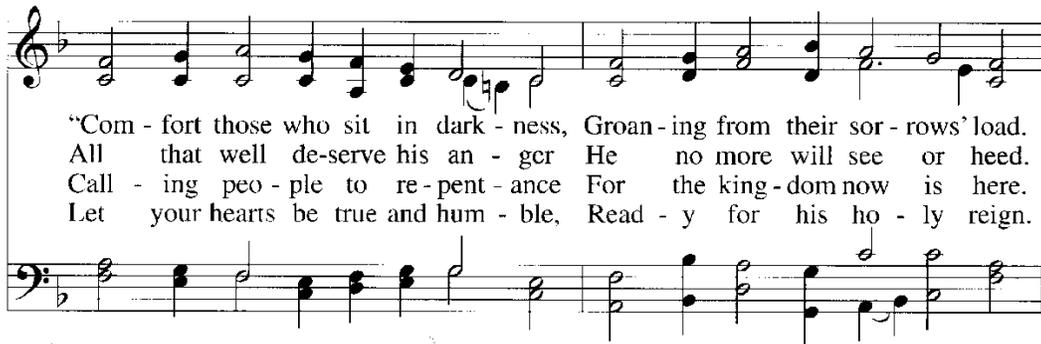
BLESSING

11

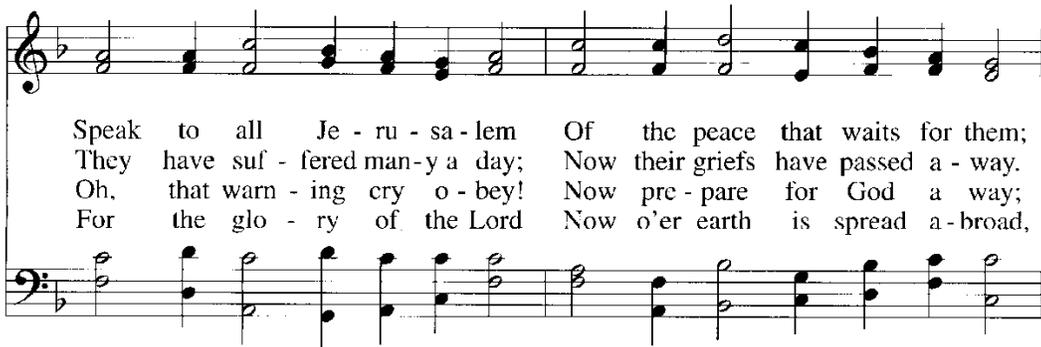
Comfort, Comfort All My People



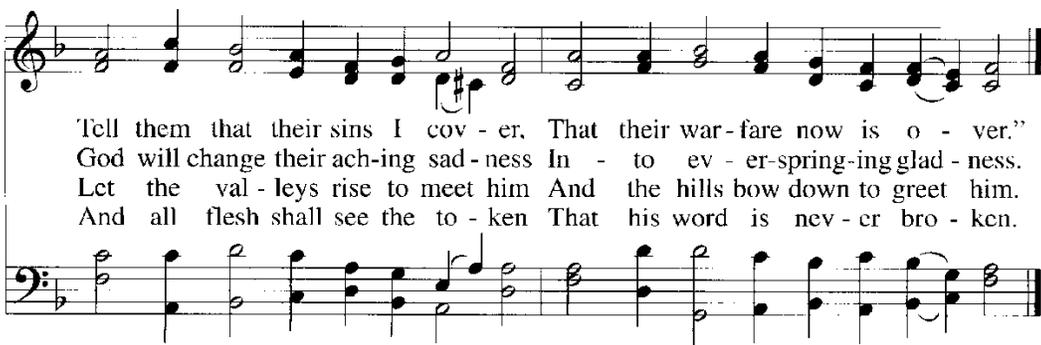
1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace," so says our God.
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des - crt far and near,
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load.
 All that well de - serve his an - ger He no more will see or heed.
 Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance For the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, Read - y for his ho - ly reign.



Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 They have suf - fered man - y a day; Now their 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 spread a - broad,



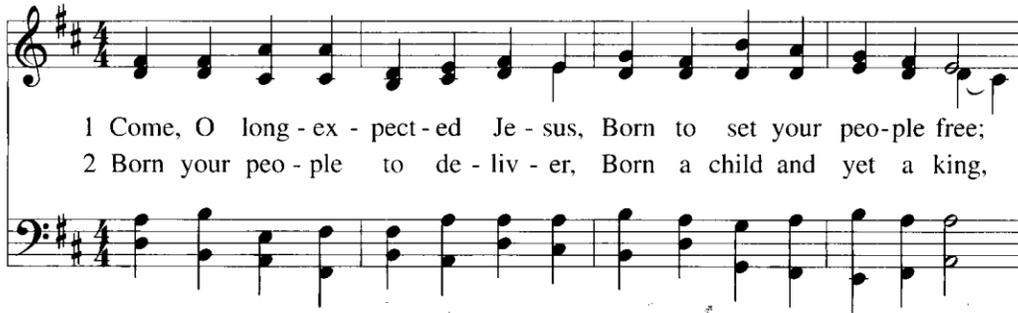
Tell them that their sins I cov - er, That their war - fare now is o - ver."
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That his word is nev - er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

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

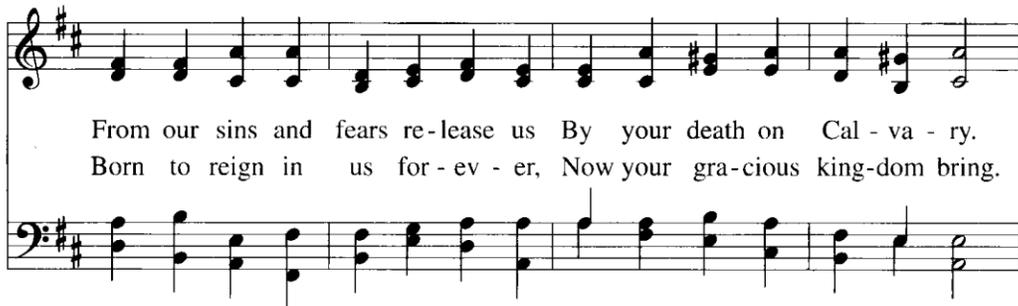
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Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

6



1 Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set your peo - ple free;
2 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,



From our sins and fears re - lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope to all the earth im - part,
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: Unknown

ST. HILARY
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Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

23

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
 4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 And close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

VENI, EMMANUEL
 LM with Refrain

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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