



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

DECEMBER 4, 2022

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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Second Sunday of Advent

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A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

*For those joining worship via live stream, please prepare your bread and cup before worship begins
so we might partake of the communion elements at the same time during today's service.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

Moment for Ministry

Josh Walters

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

15th c. Melody

Ginger Jones-Robinson, soloist; Taylor Eppinger, violin

arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

*O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Emmanuel will come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Emmanuel will come, O Israel.*

INTROIT

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Geonyong Lee

*Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body; come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
Come now, O God of love, make us one body; come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Ashley Swavely and Lexy Rile

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the candle of hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ.
Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of peace.
(The candle of peace is lit.)

Leader: God has a peaceful dream for the world, and we dream it, too.
We dream of a peaceful world full of wolves, leopards, and lions eating with, resting
among, and dancing with lambs, kids, and calves.
We dream of a peaceful world where nations come together, where war is a memory,
and we eat at one table. We light this candle in peace.

People: **On this day, we remember the Lord of All who brings peace surpassing all
understanding.**

***HYMN NO. 87**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Genevan 42

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Susan Dunlap

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of the future,

you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.

(Confession continues next page.)

Please rise in body or in spirit.

(Confession continues.)

**We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.**

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Response (sung three times)

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

***THE PEACE**

Susan Dunlap

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **O Root of Jesse, O Peace, stir up your power within us,
that in this time we may await with abundant expectation
the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation,
for you live and reign among us,
Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 15:4-13

(Pew Bible, NT page163)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

(Pew Bible, OT page 640)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON*"Stumps, Shoots, and Trees"*

Mindy Douglas

SOLO RESPONSE*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Ginger Jones-Robinson, soprano

German, 16th c.
arr. Todd Marchand

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us,
and lightens every load.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from the Belhar Confession)

Susan Dunlap

We believe

- that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;
- that God calls the church to follow in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right.

Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

In Faith I Calmly Rest

J. S. Bach

In faith I calmly rest, and put my trust in God,

arr. by Clarence Dickinson

*Although oft sore oppress with anxious care and dread;**His friendship my reward, in him my joy I find;**He keepeth watch and ward o'er me and o'er my house. (Anthem text continues next page.)*

*Therefore I thank my God, and joy to do his will
I know what e'er befall, his love doth lead me still.
So, like a little child who clasps his father's hand,
Serene I take my way, in faith untroubled stand.
Great peace they surely have who in the Lord confide,
Who cast on him all care, and in his love abide.*

*Doxology (Hymn No. 108, verse 6)

Divinum Mysterium

***Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!***

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Mindy Douglas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Susan Dunlap

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

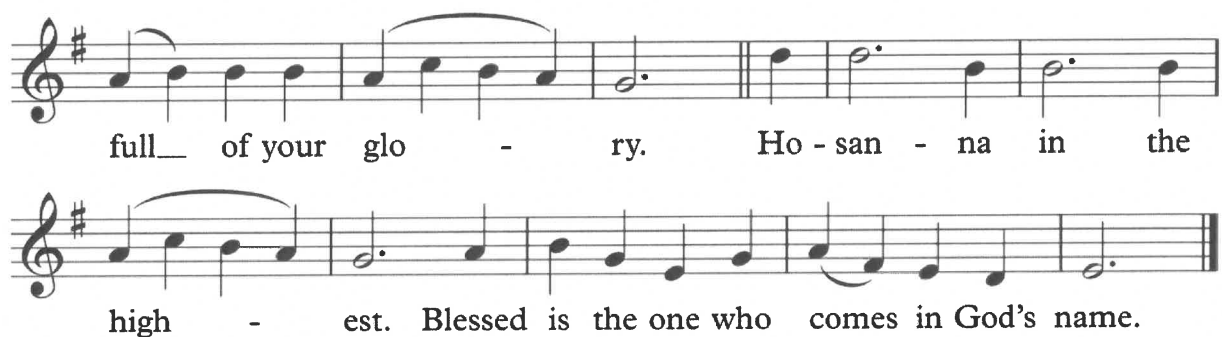
Leader: Holy are you, God of Jesse,
for the branch of our salvation is rooted in you.
To Abraham you promised to raise up a people bound to you in love
and through the household of David
you brought life greater than our imagining
in a child of grace, Jesus our Lord.
Though we deny your love for ourselves and
seek to limit the reach of your mercy to others,
you beckon us to repentance, open our eyes to new life,
and embrace us to join your family of faith.
In your Son's death we see the depth of our sin;
yet in his resurrection we see the extent of your grace.
You bless us beyond reckoning, for you welcome us
into the company of prophets and apostles and saints
on earth and in heaven, with whom forever we sing your praise.:

All (sung):

Sanctus

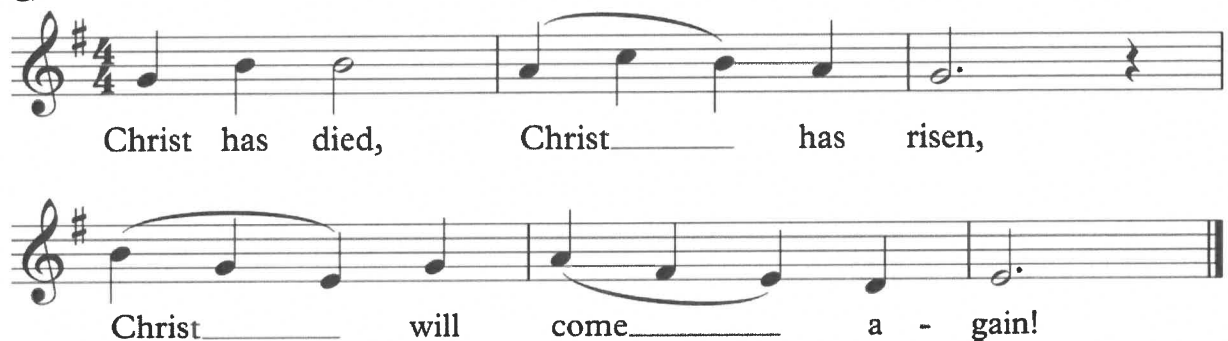
Veni Emmanuel





Leader: Anointing God, your Spirit rested upon your Son
with wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and fear.
In Christ you have anointed your future out of our past,
your kingdom out of our plans,
and your salvation out of our poverty.
As your Spirit rested upon him, send down that same anointing Spirit
upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord.
Great is the mystery of faith.

All (sung):



Leader: Astonishing God, your prophet Isaiah envisioned a day
when the wolf and lamb would lie down together,
and the leopard with the kid, and a little child would lead them.
Surprise us anew by your gentle ways of peace.
Shape your church to live from faith, not fear.
Make your future present through the lives of those
who show us how to love our enemies.
Hasten the day when the earth will be full of the knowledge of you,
and your fullness will be all in all,
and all creation from the depths of the sea to the heights of the mountains
will know the peace to which your Son shall lead.
Awaken that dawn when we are surrounded with everlasting praise to you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All (sung):



THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Susan Dunlap, Mindy Douglas

***THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

(The bread is gluten free. The elements were prepared in a gluten-free area. Communion servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. As you are able, come forward to receive the bread and cup.)

Communion Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Thomas Keesecker

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste
of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation.
Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm.
Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory
of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 378**

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

Merle's Tune

***BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

J. Pachelbel

***A Service of Healing and Wholeness
today at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.***

Is your heart heavy with grief and loss? Do you need a space for communal grieving? Come join us as we sing and pray together, recognizing that God is with us in our grief and loss, and that we are a community that holds one another up in prayer and hope. As we celebrate Advent, come recognize the ways that God is with us in our grief. We do not walk this road alone.



Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code. First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, and ability to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the *Friendship Pad*, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

Special thanks to Ginger Jones-Robinson for providing music for today's worship. Ms. Jones-Robinson has appeared in solo recitals throughout the Carolinas and with the leading orchestras of the region, performing works of Mozart, Beethoven, Da Falla, and others. She has also appeared in a wide variety of operatic roles. Currently she is pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of South Carolina.

The *sanctuary table* upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by **George Danser** and is given to the church by him and his wife, **Jean Cary**. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

Advent paraments: In 2012, First Presbyterian Church commissioned internationally known fiber-artist Laurie Wohl to design and create two paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. The text on the Advent parament, in Hebrew and English, is from Isaiah 12:3: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." The text on the lectern parament is from Luke 1:78-79: "The dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to guide our feet into the way of peace." We are grateful that the bequest of Anne 'St. Clair' Williams made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle by the door or return it to an usher. Receivers are sanitized after each use.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. **Activity bags** are available in the foyer for children.

Restroom locations: To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the second floor of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Today's texts were taken from *Book of Common Worship* (2018), *Feasting on the Word*, *Eucharistic Prayers*, and *Glory to God (Presbyterian Hymnal)*.

~ JOYS AND CONCERNS ~



FPC hires Temporary Stated Supply Associate Pastor

Esther Hethcox will join the FPC program staff on December 14. Esther has served as a hospital chaplain, pastoral intern, Interim pastor for Presbyterian Campus Ministry+ and most recently as Pastoral Assistant for her home church, Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham. Esther is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA.

Arthur Clark celebrated his 100th birthday on November 28th.

Concerns:

Pam Hanson, mother of Laura Hanson

Paul Cornsweet

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Rebekah Jakel

Chris James

Jancy Johnstone

George Kafula

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Franzi Rokoske

Carol Wills

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley*

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: *Arthur Clark*

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Jim Wolfe*

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Liz Block, cousin of Jane and Bill Brown

Bob, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Diane Lesman, friend of FPC

Karen Shelton, mother-in-law of Dawn Carsey Shelton

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Inquirers' Classes continue Sundays, December 11, 18 – 9:45-10:45 a.m. Education Building, Second Floor (room 202) – Whether you are a new visitor to FPC, a new member, or a long-time member who wants to learn more, join us for classes on Reformed worship and the liturgical year, Presbyterian theology and polity, and life and ministry at FPC (Class is not required for membership. Open to anyone.).

New Member Sunday is December 11. Contact *Mindy Douglas* if you are interested in joining the church. Membership is a sign of your deep and ongoing commitment to the mission and ministries we are a part of at First Presbyterian Church as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus. We are glad you are here and would love to welcome you as a member of the church!



CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

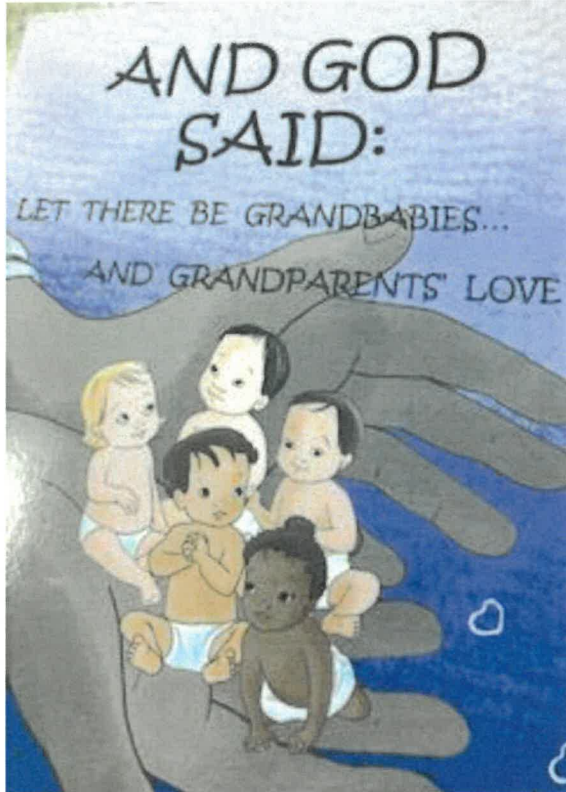
On Sunday, December 11, we will gather in the evening at FPC for a time of fun and fellowship.

At 5:30 p.m., families of the church will present a pageant “Room for a Little One” in the sanctuary. Participants are still needed for non-speaking parts. [Sign up online](#) or call Lenore at 919-616-2360 for more information.

At 6:00 p.m., we will enjoy a potluck meal together in Watts-Hill Hall. The church will provide a main dish of ham and a vegetarian option of black bean and sweet potato enchiladas. We invite you to bring a side item or dessert (and a serving spoon/tongs for your dish). We need a head count of how many will join us for the potluck so please respond online to the EVITE or call the church office (919-682-5511 x 215) by December 7 with the number in your household attending. One response per household is appreciated. With cooler temperatures, seating will be indoors in the fellowship hall, and both parlors will be available if needed. Following the meal, we will gather around the tree in the foyer and sing songs of the season. This is one of our favorite fellowship events. How wonderful it will be to gather together again! Invite your friends and neighbors. All are welcome.

Volunteers are needed to help with setup and clean up. Contact Ashley Swavely (864-933-4674) or [sign up online](#).

Grandparents' Tea Party



**Tuesday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m.
at Covenant Presbyterian Church**

2620 Weaver St., Durham

*“And God said: Let there be Grandbabies.
And Grandparents' Love”*

This is the title of a wonderful book by Elder Sue McLaurin of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Grandparents in Covenant and First Presbyterian are invited to this tea party at 3:00 p.m. on December 13th at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham.

Jane Williams of FPC and Sue will discuss this book and there will be a conversation about the joys and challenges of grandparenting. Refreshments will be provided by Alice Sharp of Covenant Presbyterian.

Please let us know that you will join us by calling FPC at 919-682-5511 x 217 or Covenant at 919-682-1484 by Sunday, December 11. Copies of Sue's book will be available for purchase at the event.

Advent Season at FPC!

December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation Classes (all ages) – 9:45 a.m.

Worship - 11:00 a.m.

New members will be introduced during worship.

Christmas Pageant – 5:30 p.m.

Potluck Supper followed by a Sing-along – 6:00 p.m.

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation Classes (all ages) – 9:45 a.m.

Worship: A Service of Lessons and Carols – 11:00 a.m.

The Christmas Joy offering will be received during worship.

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Communion and Candle Lighting Service - 5:00 p.m.

An offering will be received for Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry
and FPC's Walk-in Ministry.

December 25 - Christmas Day

No Faith Formation Classes

Worship with Communion - 11:00 a.m.

The *Hunger for Change Offering* will be received.

January 1- Epiphany

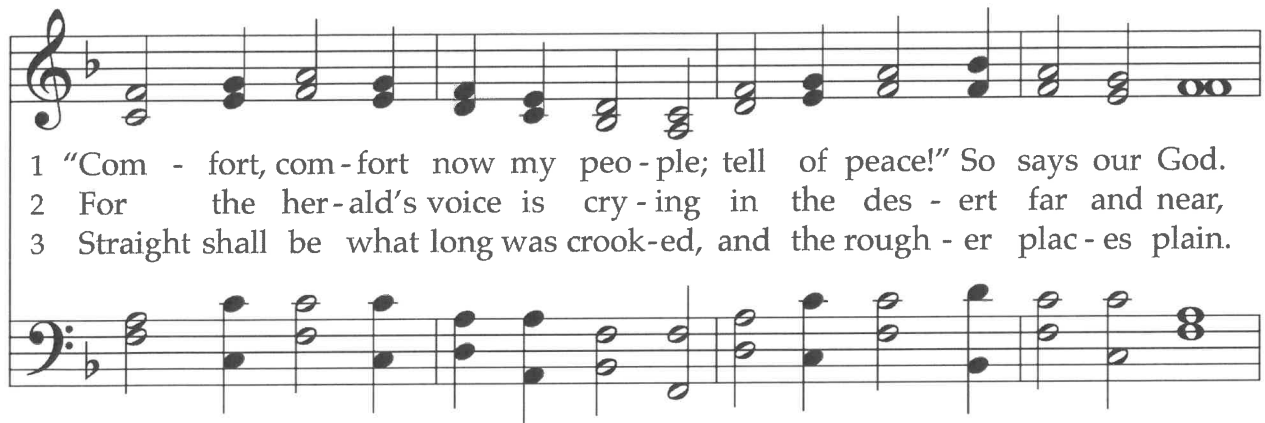
First Sunday after Christmas

New Year's Day

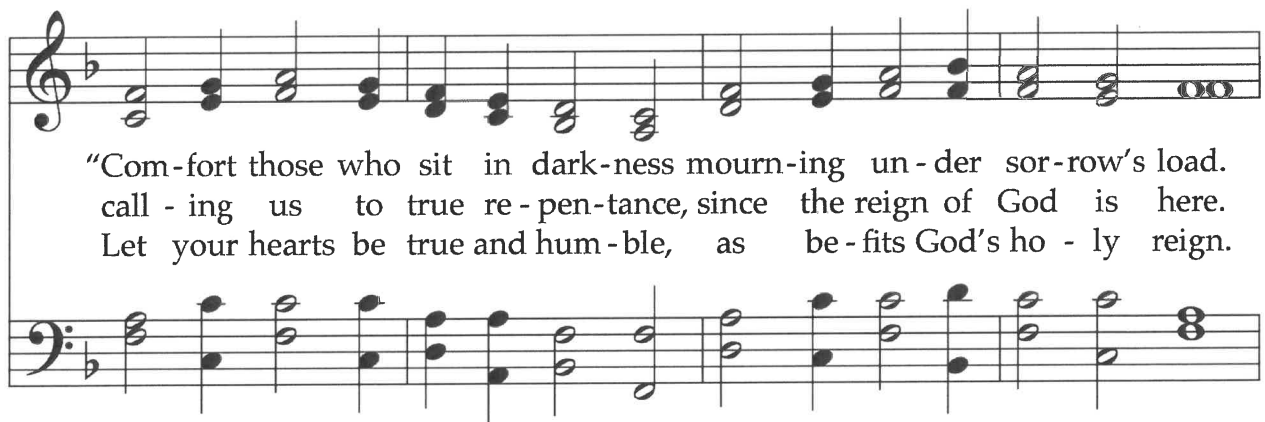
No Faith Formation Classes

Worship – 11:00 a.m.

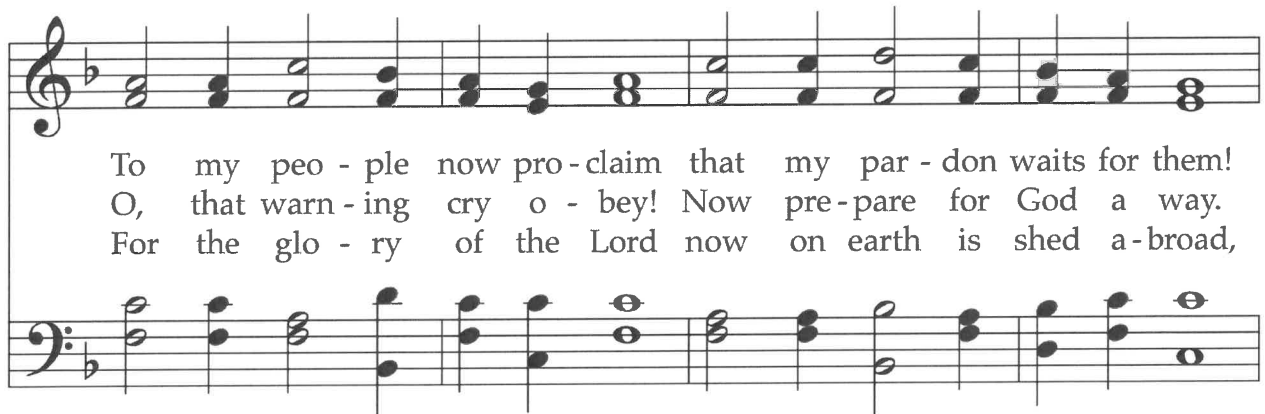
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



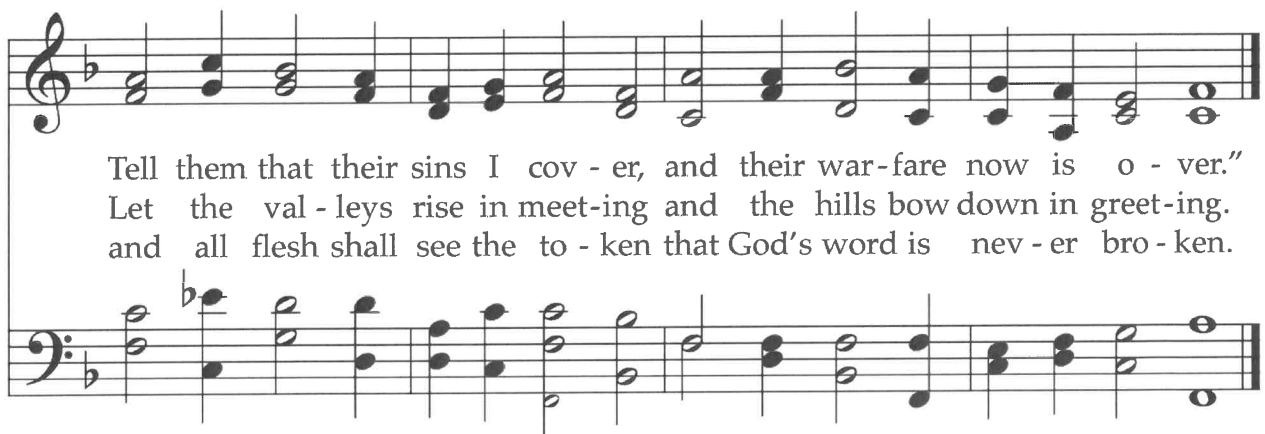
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

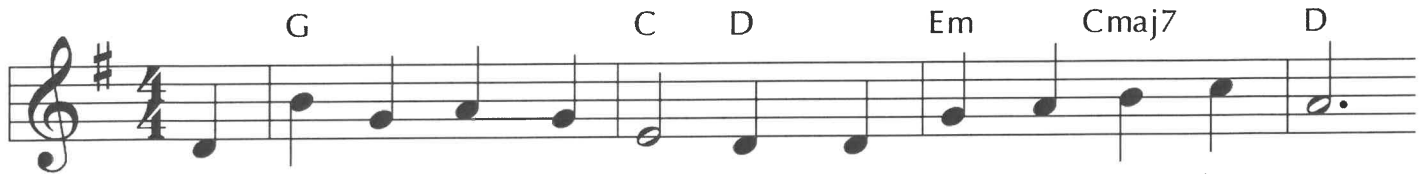


To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

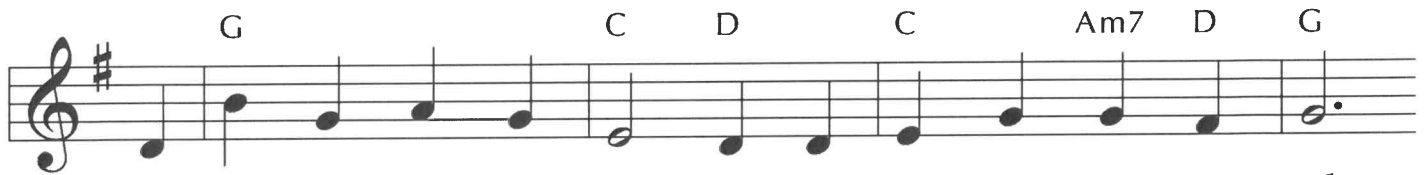


Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

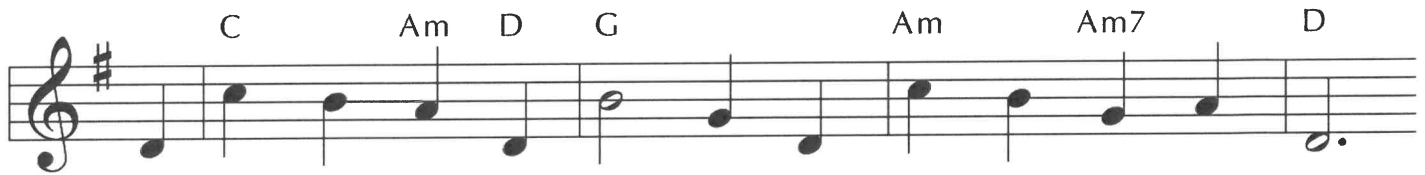
We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom 378



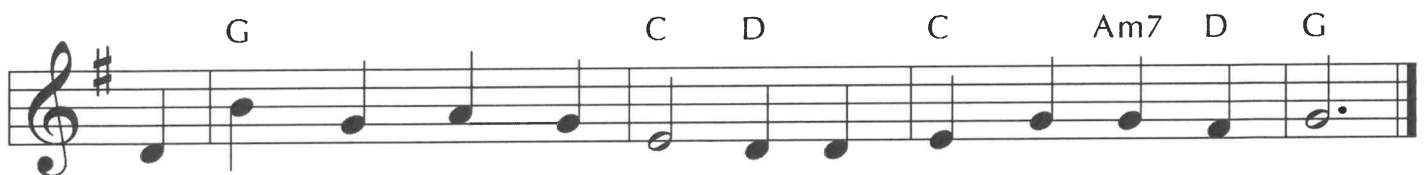
1 We wait the peace - ful king - dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
 2 Where is the peace - ful king - dom? When will this new day start?
 3 When wars of des - o - la - tion and hate come to an end,
 4 That lit - tle child shall lead us to walk the cho - sen way,



in gen - tle - ness and friend - ship with - out a fear or sigh,
 We long for peace and com - fort to reign with - in each heart.
 when na - tion meets with na - tion and calls the oth - er "friend,"
 to share the peace - ful king - dom, to greet God's new - born day.



when li - on shall be graz - ing, when snake shall nev - er strike;
 Yet not in our lives on - ly, nor sim - ply in our home:
 still peace in all its full - ness will on - ly have be - gun:
 The child born in a sta - ble is sent to break our chains,



a lit - tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a - like.
 we pray that all cre - a - tion will one day find sha - lom.
 sha - lom for all cre - a - tion be - gins with jus - tice done.
 to bring through word and ta - ble the day when jus - tice reigns.

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today</p> <p>4:00 PM A Service of Healing and Wholeness</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group at the Curtis' home</p> <p>8:00 PM Meaning in the Middle Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Monday, December 5</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon Walk-in Ministry</p> <p>10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle and Bible Study</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 6</p> <p>6:00 PM Tutoring Sessions at Iglesia Emanuel</p> <p>6:15 PM Book Study: <i>Hope</i> (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 7</p> <p>11:00 AM Book Study: <i>Hope</i> (via Zoom)</p> <p>1:00 PM All Staff Meeting</p> <p>7 PM Chancel Choir</p>
<p>Thursday, December 8</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry</p> <p>6:00 PM Tutoring Sessions at Iglesia Emanuel</p>	<p>Friday, December 9</p>	<p>Saturday, December 10</p> <p>6:00 PM First Friends Advent Potluck at the home of Melinda Ruley and Stewart Fisher</p>	<p>Sunday, December 11 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p>9:45-10:45 AM Faith Formation classes for all ages</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship New Members Received</p> <p>Annual Christmas Fellowship Christmas Pageant (5:30 PM in the sanctuary)</p> <p>Christmas Potluck (6:00 PM in Watts-Hill Hall) followed by a Carols Sing-Along</p>

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For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office: info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
 Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
 Vernon Cooper, Sexton
 Mindy Douglas, Pastor, Head of Staff
 Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
 Omar Guess, Sunday Morning Sexton
 Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Amy Bowers Heit, Pastoral Associate
 Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
 Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor (Medical Leave)
 Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
 Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
 John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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