



Thank you for joining us!!

Leading Worship Today

December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Margaret Crowl, Guest Pastor

Victoria Flick, Liturgist

Linda Hood, Psalm

Second Sunday Candle Lighting: Camise and Bob Kettner

The Chancel Choir

Nancy Leffler, Director of Music

Nathan Secrest, Accompanist

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Order of Service

December 8, 2024

Gathering Music

Prayer Concerns

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Prelude

Advent Candle-Lighting Camise and Bob Kettner

Congregational response (unison):

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Choral Response *Light Two Candles to Watch for Messiah*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this season of bumper-to-bumper stress,
with life more crowded than the stores,

**People: God welcomes us to a feast of faithfulness,
where we may sit in peace and gentleness.**

Leader: In these times of rancorous rants and snide
remarks, with people too busy to offer words of
compassion...

**People: Jesus whispers of hope for broken hearts,
sings carols of justice for all the outsiders.**

Leader: In these days of more and more time spent with devices, and fewer moments with those who could touch us with joy,

People: the Spirit embraces us with peace that comforts, loves us with a passion beyond our imaginings.

Hymn: *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*

#100 Glory to God

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of goodness, we must confess that we have not lived as your children. We muddy the clear waters of baptism with the debris from walking over those we claim we love. We sit in our lonely lives feasting on bitterness, when we could be feasting with those we are told not to trust. We wait for all our desires to be taken care of by you, while you hope we would fill the lives of others with your grace and hope.

Forgive us, God of this holy season, and help us to be as willing to draw near to others, so we might heal their brokenness, touch their loneliness, embrace their grief, and love them as you did when you came to us so long

ago, as well as in these moments, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior...

Hear now our silent prayers...

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Glory Be to the Father / Gloria Patri #581 *Glory to God*

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Gospels Mark 1: 1-8 p. 910, pew Bible

Reading from the Psalter Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
p. 532, pew Bible

The Word Proclaimed in Music *Awaken Us, O Lord*

Reading from the Prophets Isaiah 40:1-11
pp. 653-54, pew Bible

Sermon Comforting the Uncomfortable
Rev. Margaret Crowl

Hymn: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*
#87 *Glory to God*

Prayers of the People

Call for the Offering

Offertory *Sussex Carol* Lea Manuel & Jennifer Hall

Sung Response: ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit
evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.***

(Doxology, #607 *Glory to God*)

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Song: *People Look East* #105 *Glory to God*

Benediction

Benediction Response *Glory to God in the Highest*

Postlude

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



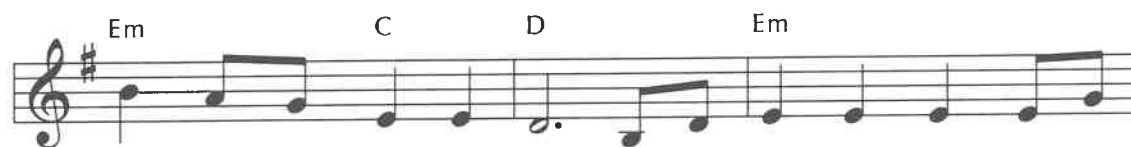
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Glory Be to the Father

581


Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -



gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.


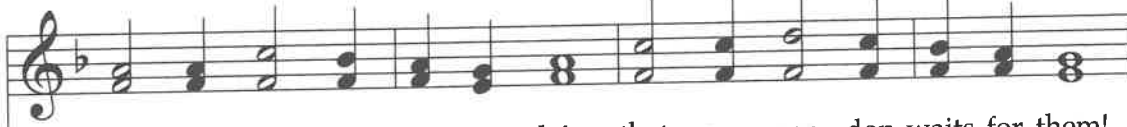
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



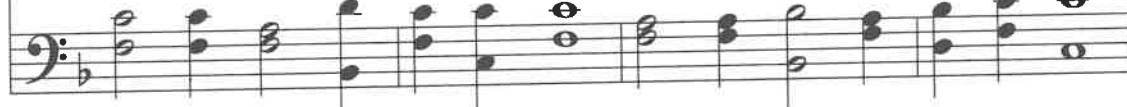

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.


"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,

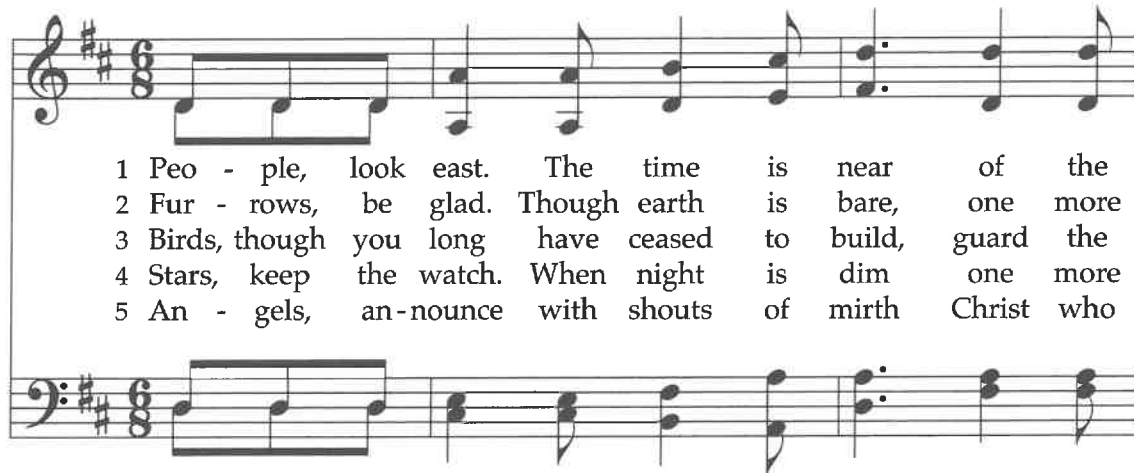



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

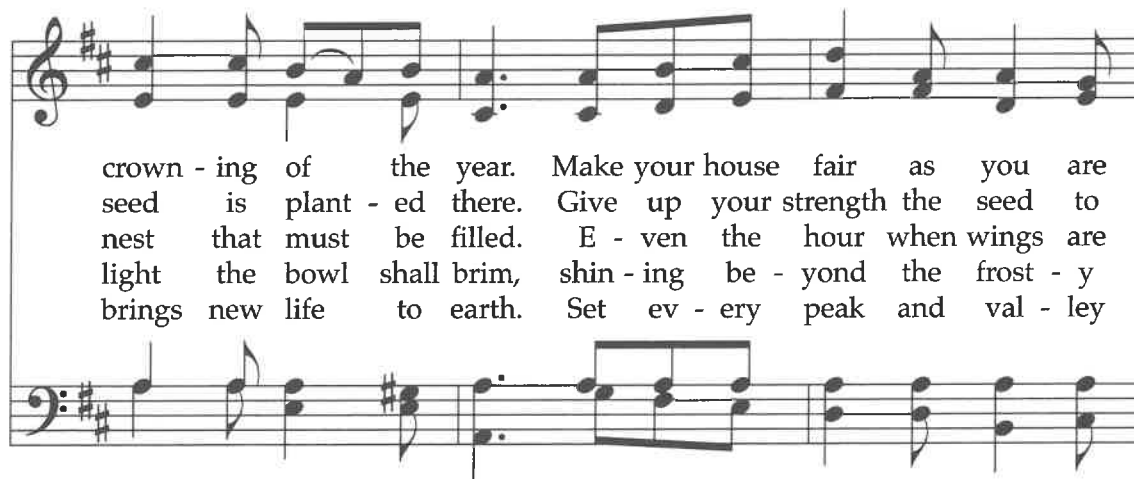


This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

People, Look East

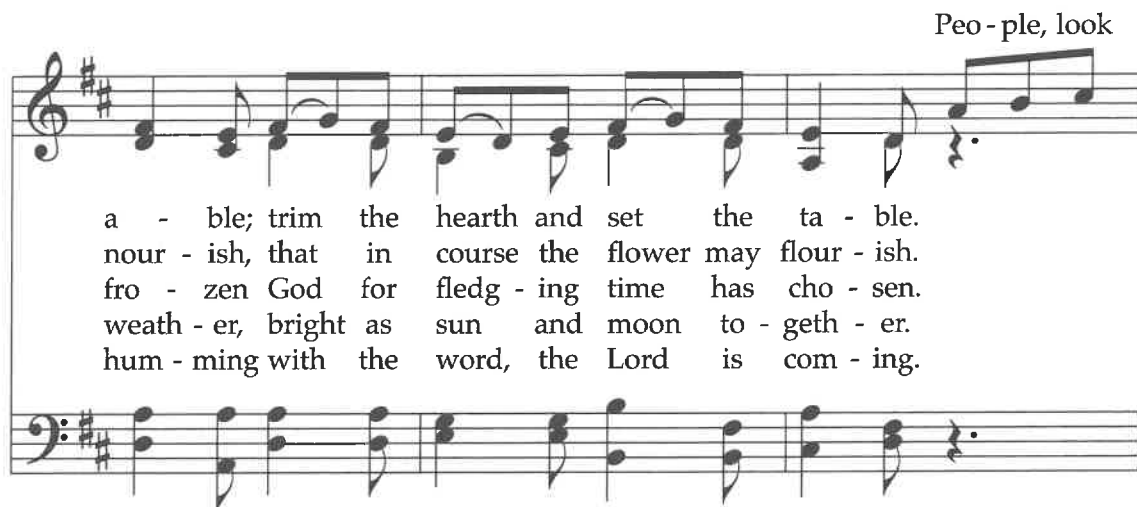


1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look



a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

east and sing to - day:



Peo-ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Love, the Star, is on the way.
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo-ple, look east:

(Love is on the way.)

