

DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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2

Leader: Let us turn our hearts to receive from the Holy One!

People: Righteousness will go before them, and will make a path for their steps.

Invocation

All: God Among Us, your ways are perfect and your laws are just. We gather today in your name and for your kindom. May it come wherever and whenever two or more gather in your name. May our hearts open and our understanding expand with the vision of righteousness. May our worship please you, transform us, and bear witness to your love. Amen.

*Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
(Music may be found on page 7.)

VENI EMMANUEL

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

All: Righteous God, you have created us in your image to reflect your holiness. You have affirmed the goodness within us. We struggle to be the people you call us to be. You have given us the guidance of the Law and the wisdom of the Prophets and the gift of your Presence. Still, we struggle against the pull to go our own direction without your counsel. We fail to extend the grace and compassion you give to us. Be merciful in your judgment while holding us accountable for your justice as we strive to live the fullness of life in you. Amen.

Moment of Silent Contemplation and Prayer

Words of Grace

Leader: Beloved, you were not made to be perfect; you were created to be good. In hope, we affirm that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. Lean into the power of God to do the work that we cannot, to meet us at our point of need, and to lead us into the path of new life.

(Candles 1 and 2 Representing Hope and Peace)

Liturgist: We light the third candle of Advent representing our Joy. We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

People: We have known people who have challenged us and called us into God's light. They seem, like John, called by God to prepare us for a deeper faith. A sometimes challenging faith.

Liturgist: God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

People : Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.

All: Shine on us, O God of justice; Guide our path through gloom of night; Bear within us Wisdom's glory; Come to us, O Christ the Light.

Greetings from Executive Presbyter, Dr. John Odom

Scripture Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7

Time for Young Disciples

Music for Reflection	The Best of Rooms	Randall Thompson
<i>"Christ, He requires still, wheresoe'er He comes, To feed, or lodge, to have the best of rooms: Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part Of all the house: the best of all's the heart."</i> Text: Robert Herrick, 'Christ's Part' (1647)		

Scripture

Luke 3:7-18

Sermon

Facing Some Facts

Rev. Phil Davis

*Hymn

Blest Be the God of Israel
(Music may be found on page 8.)

MERLE'S TUNE

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit 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 Spirit, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Rise, Shine!

Negro Spiritual

Arr. Marques L.A. Garrett /Tom Trenney

"Refrain: Rise, shine! For the light is a-comin'. My Lord says he's comin' by an' by.

Verses: This is the year of jubilee, my Lord says. . .

My Lord has set all people free, . . .

Wet or dry, I intend to try. . .

To serve the Lord until I die. . . [Ref.]

I intend to shout an' never stop. . .

Until I reach that mountaintop. . . [Ref.]"

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Let songs rise up from earth below;
Let stars and galaxies enthrone;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

Prepare the Way, O Zion
(*Music may be found on page 9.*)

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on "Prepare the Way"

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Thank you to:

Liturgist: Sally Allison

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Nicole Knickerbocker, Lindsey Puc, Carolina Sullivan, Joan Sussman

Alto: Cecelia Allchin, Isabella Apodaca, Leah Rosenman

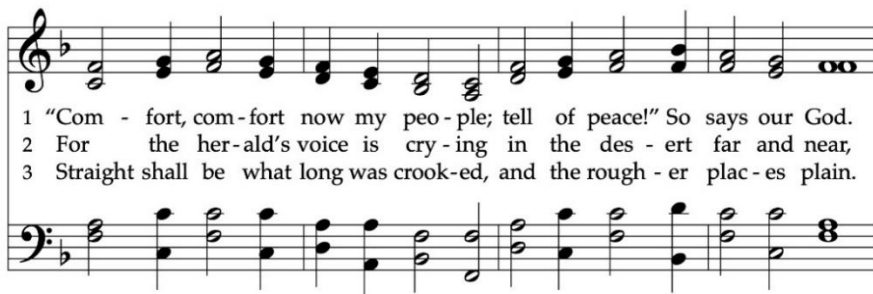
Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Mark Darling, Evan McMahon

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers,

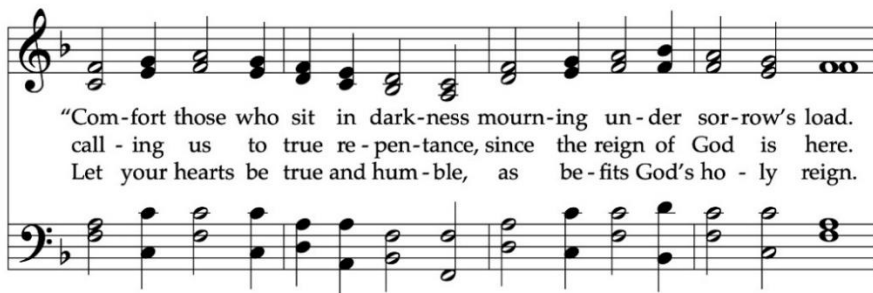
Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd, Sumner Tessier

Tony Sun, flute

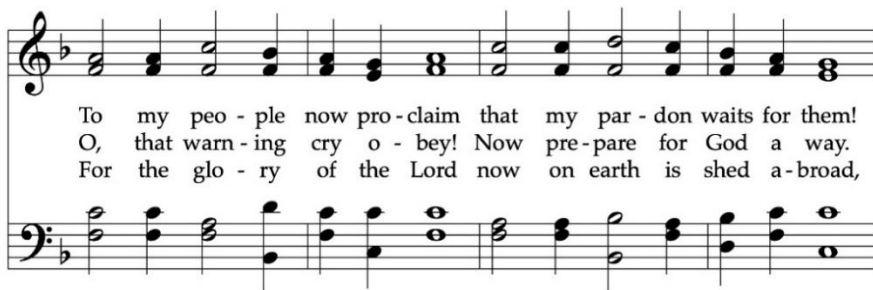
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



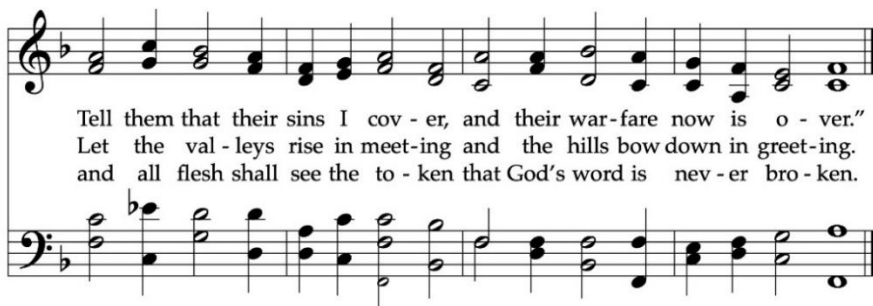
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"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.

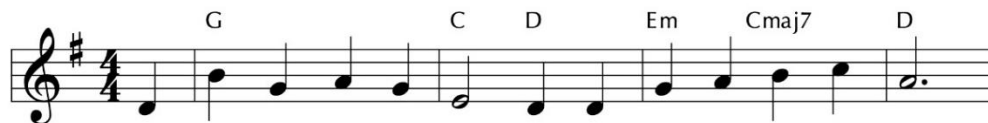
This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

TEXT: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

GENEVAN 42
 8.7.8.7.7.8.8

109 Blest Be the God of Israel

Song of Zechariah



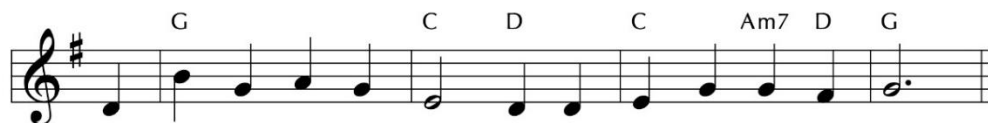
1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
 2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

This 20th-century British paraphrase of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68–79) broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

TEXT: Michael Perry, 1973, alt.

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

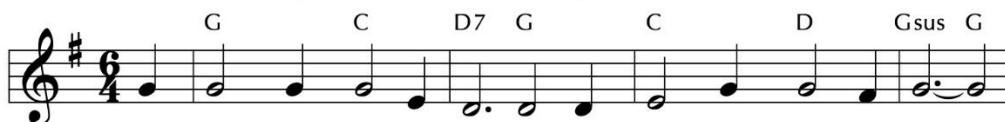
Text © 1973 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

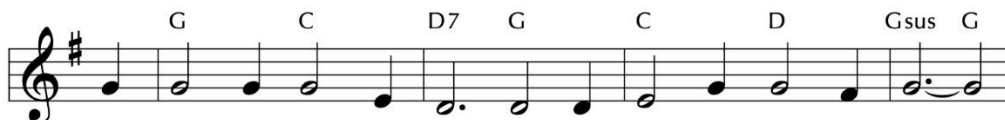
MERLE'S TUNE

7.6.7.6.D

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



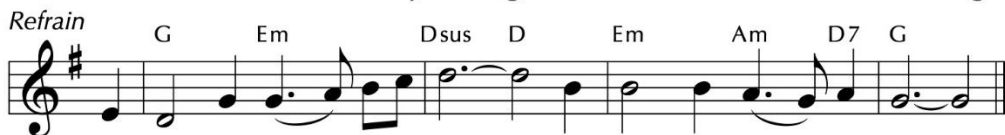
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care for children up to 2nd Grade is available in the Library

Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the “Time with Our Children and Youth” for a brief time with the pastor, and then will be taken up to their Sunday School room by their teacher. Parents are welcome to come up with their kids if they would like.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



+We seek to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the “T” (telephone) position.

*** An asterisk indicates** “please rise in body or spirit.”

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns– If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person(s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The prayer requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the pastor.

This Week at Downtown United Presbyterian

Sunday, December 15

10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship-Rev. Phil Davis
11:15AM Sunday School
7:00PM Sophia Circle via Zoom

Tuesday, December 17

10:30AM Bible study via Zoom
7:00PM Session Mtg via Zoom

Wednesday, December 18

4:30PM Sunday Forum Mtg via Zoom
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

10:00AM Personnel Mtg via Zoom

Sunday, December 22

10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship-Rev. Phil Davis
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Coffee Hour in Sanctuary

The Downtown Church Staff

Keisha Betts, Office Administrator
Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
The Rev. Philip B. Davis, Sr.,
Stated Supply Pastor
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
David Mear, Business Manager
Moses Nhial, Maintenance

Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Tyrone Reeves, Maintenance
Robin Sheikh, Sunday School Teacher
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet, Clerks of Session

Henry Ehindero, Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Philip B.
Davis, Moderator
Nancy Brown
David Lee
Bob Richane
Sally Allison
Sam King

Jim Vesper

Pat Tweet

Mary Rees

Deacons

Bob Carlisle
Andrea Folan
Elizabeth Katz
Elaine Johnson

Stephen Lloyd

Grania Marcus

Carol Samuel

Kelley Sheils

Marilyn Terpening

Sandy Morales

Helen Ganotis

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