

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

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

(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)



In preparation for celebrating communion where you are, please have your bread and cup available at the beginning of worship so that we might partake of the elements at the same time during today's service.

GATHERING MUSIC *This Endless Night* Healey Willan

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND CONCERNS Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE *Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland* J.S. Bach
(Come Now Savior of the Heathen)
*Come now, Savior of the Heathen, known to be the Virgin's Son.
The whole world wonders at His birth which was ordained by God.*

CALL TO WORSHIP Mindy Douglas

Leader: John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way."
So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

All: **We silence the inner critic.**
We let go of busy thoughts.
We make space for God to speak.

Leader: How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

All: **We bless all emotions.**
We feel what we feel.
We open ourselves up to be moved.

Leader: How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

All: **We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space.**
We breathe in God's mercy.
We exhale God's love.

Leader: How do we prepare our souls for worship?

All: **We bring our full selves into this space.**
We wear our hearts on our sleeves.
We trust that even now, God is here.

Leader: Family of faith,
what we practice in worship,
we must live out in our daily lives.
So prepare the way.

All: **Let us worship Holy God.**

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Roxana Boyd

Response (Hymn No. 85, verse 2)

Tif in Veldele

***Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.***

CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin (in unison)

Holy God,

we wish that peace were something we could buy.

We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service,

found on a map,

downloaded in an app,

or voted for in a ballot.

We wish that peace were as easy

as a one-time choice when we are feeling our best.

However, what we have found is that

peace involves everyday decisions over and over,

whether or not we are feeling our best.

So today we confess, in front of this community of faith,

that we need your help in this Advent season.

Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach us how to be a part of it.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: May God forgive us.

May God's guiding hand surround us.

May we know comfort.

May we know peace.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Response (Hymn No. 82)

Hyfrydol

***Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.***

***Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of Peace,
we must admit, there are a million things on our minds.
We would like to be as focused as John the Baptist –
preparing the way,
gathering the crowd,
spreading the word of your arrival.
Maybe then we'd know peace.
So today, we ask for your help in preparing the way.
Could you start with our ears,
and then maybe move to our hearts?
We'd like to hear you more clearly.
Maybe then we'll know peace.
Gratefully, we pray. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Peace Dreams"

Mindy Douglas

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**We believe that a voice cried out in the wilderness,
saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord."
And so, we show up for worship, even from home.
We march toward justice.
We roll up our sleeves.
We plant trees for our children.
We make art.
We choose hope.
We gather at the Table.
We set an extra plate.
We sing loudly, with joy.
We share stories and wisdom.
We celebrate children.
We fall together.
We rise together.
We do all these things
because we believe
that God loves us so much
that God shows up here.
So we prepare and prepare for that next beautiful day.
May it be so.
Amen.**

*“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” so says our God.
 “Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
 To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
 Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”*

*For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
 calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.*

O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.

*For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
 and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

John Weicher

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Susan Dunlap

Leader: God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us open our hearts.

All: **We open them to our God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

All: **It is right to lift up thanks and praise.**

Leader: Great Deliverer, how wondrous are your deeds!

You created the world and all that is in it.

With a mighty arm you parted the waters

And led your people to liberation.

When we were in exile,

you gathered us up in your bosom

and led us home like a mother sheep.

When we were mistreating our own,

you sent prophets to set us right.

You pulled down the arrogant

and lifted up the weak.

And when the time was right,

you sent Jesus to set us free.

Now send us again your life-giving Spirit

and recharge your promise within us,

for we are eagerly awaiting our Savior

to come again from heaven.

All: **Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Now as we wait for him to come again, O God,
stir up your power and restore us
by sending your Holy Spirit to infuse us with hope.

(Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving)

The great mystery of our faith:

All: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: All glory and honor are yours, eternal God,
through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

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.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

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

Leader: Let us pray.

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.**

Mindy Douglas

HYMN No. 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

Waiting (Cason)

*While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.*

Refrain: *Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.*

*With power and glory, come;
with power and glory, come.* (Refrain)

*Come, Savior, quickly come;
come, Savior, quickly come.* (Refrain)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDE

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland

J. Pachelbel

Advent Festival Drive-Thru

TODAY from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

All are invited to drive through the church parking lot to pick up:

Luminaria materials Advent wreath candles

Advent devotion booklet Advent craft Christmas Eve candles

Drop off toiletries and cleaning supplies for DCIA

AND . . . have your photo taken for the church directory!

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On November 29, 115 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

Special thanks to **Gordon Campbell** for his music leadership with today's service. Gordon will serve as organist and interim music director while **Kathy Parkins** recovers from shoulder surgery.

Many thanks to **Jody Maxwell**, **Pat Dillon**, **Keith Rokoske**, and **Jay Klinck** for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship each Sunday morning. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images accompanying our online worship today.

Portions of **today's worship text** are taken from *Sanctified Art - Those Who Dream Words for Worship, Feasting on the Word*, and *Book of Common Worship (2018)*. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

FPC will welcome new members next Sunday, December 13 during worship.

If you have interest in joining this church, please contact
[Mindy Douglas](#) or [Mitzi Lesher-Thomas](#) for more information.

~ Our Celebrations and Concerns ~

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined." -Isaiah 9:2

WE DID IT!!

Members and friends,

Over 100 of you responded to the challenge to raise \$25,000 in two weeks to care for those who are struggling in darkness during this COVID pandemic! Your gifts will be matched by a member of our congregation to provide \$50,000 for Walk-in Ministry to share with our community.

As we wait for the birth of our Savior during this Advent season, your gifts will provide light to those struggling to stay housed and warm. In November, we assisted 75 families with rent, utilities, and medications for a total of \$9,600.

Our congregation has not allowed the isolation of the pandemic to isolate us from the needs of the community. Instead we have reached out more than ever before to help others who are hit with financial hardship due to COVID 19. It is our hope that your gifts from this challenge will carry our neighbors through the rest of this pandemic.

We are so grateful to be a part of a congregation that understands our call as a downtown church. We thank each of you for your gift for this calling. We will keep you informed of our work each month. Feel free to contact any of us with questions.

In Christ's loving light and grace,
Walk in Ministry Volunteers

*Judy Arrowood, Linda Carter, Mary Jo Keenan,
John Mozart, Marie Sappenfield, Jane Williams*

CONDOLENCES: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the family of **Rebecca (Becky) Crockett**, FPC member who died on November 27 in Durham at the age of 94. The family will hold a private graveside service in Wytheville, VA.

We also extend condolences to the family of **Holly**, friend of the **Klinck family**, who died on November 30.

CONCERNS:

- ❖ **Kathy Parkins**, recovering at home following shoulder surgery
- ❖ **Grace Abels**, preparing for back surgery on Wednesday
- ❖ **Harold Dunlap**
- ❖ **Kerry Holbrook**
- ❖ **Jane Rourk**
- ❖ **Carol Wills**
- ❖ **Walter Chambliss**, father of Will Chambliss, preparing for surgery
- ❖ **Maureen Darcey**, friend of Brianna Bennett, received a diagnosis of brain cancer
- ❖ **Anna Huntley**, active friend of the congregation, with COVID-19
- ❖ **Ann Loeblich**, mother of Bruce Loeblich, in Ohio with COVID-19
- ❖ **Joe Rudigier**, brother of Jeanne Hervey, complications from a stroke
- ❖ **The many households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**
- ❖ **Those who are grieving during this holiday season**

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

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

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

- ❖ **Brendan Bequette**, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera
 - ❖ **Peggy Boulden**, mother of Dick Boulden
 - ❖ **Linda Capers**, friend of Li-Chen Chin
 - ❖ **Meg Courtney**, daughter of Bob and Mary Lee Clark, active friends of the congregation
 - ❖ **Phil Goss**, friend of the congregation
 - ❖ **Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson
 - ❖ **Shannon Putman**, daughter of Mary Putman
 - ❖ **Robert Reaves**, husband of Floalice Reaves, friend of the congregation
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Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 31, 2020; or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2020, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2020 taxes.

If you wish to make a contribution by credit card, this may be done through the church's website (<https://firstpres-durham.org>) at any time. **To be deductible on your 2020 taxes, please initiate the gift by Tuesday, December 29. On-line contributions scheduled for December 31 will not reach us in time.**

If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify Tom Bloom, Business Administrator (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) **as soon as possible.**

Members aged 70 ½ + who own an IRA may be able to make a tax-excludable gift directly to First Presbyterian and have that gift satisfy any required minimum distribution for this year. Please contact your IRA administrator ASAP if you wish to consider this giving option for tax year 2020.

Robert Daye is Retiring!

**A retirement celebration will be held
December 20 at 2:00 p.m. (via Zoom).**

Connect to the celebration via the church's website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

Our own Robert Daye is retiring with over 43 years of service as sexton of our church. Be a part of the celebration!

- We need your **stories** and pictures now. Please scan and email them to [Celia Dickerson](#).
- Let's shower Robert with cards, thanking him.
- The Session approved a Love Offering for Robert. **Please send your donation to Tom Bloom in the church office by December 10th**. Make check payable to FPC. Memo: Robert's Retirement.

We are looking forward to our congregational thanks to Robert for his many years of service.

From the Committee for Robert's retirement,
*Celia Dickerson Beth Stringfield
Kate Busa Barbara Buckley*



FINAL CALL . . .

YOU can be in this year's Christmas Eve Pageant Video


**We need all photos and videos
by December 12th in order to
complete video editing on time.**

**Please spread the word!
Everyone can participate.**

Click [here](#) to sign up for a part/scene
in the pageant.

Contact [Lenore Champion](#)
at 919-616-2360 for more information.

Click [here](#) to access FPC's Advent resources and activities



***A Time to Mourn:
Advent Meditations and Conversation
for Broken Hearts in a Weary World***

(via Zoom)

The holidays can be a difficult time for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one or the loss of anything else close to the heart. These three Zoom gatherings offer a time of prayer and reflection to mourn, remember, and honor our losses. Each gathering is different, and you are invited to all three or to just one or two. Whether you have lost someone recently or decades ago, we'll make room to come together in both sorrow and hope during this season of light shining in the darkness.

Image source: sanctified art.org

LEADERS: Mitzi Leshner-Thomas and Susan Dunlap

TIME: Sundays in December (Dec. 6, 13, 20) from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/99260154711>



Click [here](#) to access this event via Zoom.

Anyone who would like to lead a song (meaning unmute to play and sing a song while others remain muted to sing along) should contact [Kathy Conner](#) via e-mail by Thursday, December 9.

Do we have your nominees for Officers - Class of 2024?

As we look ahead to next year, the **Nominating Committee** is beginning their work of gathering suggestions from the congregation for the new slate of ruling elders, deacons, and the next Nominating Committee. Ruling elders and deacons serve for three year terms and the Nominating Committee serves for one year. Ruling elders, deacons, and Nominating Committee members may serve a consecutive term. We normally receive paper nominations over the course of a few weeks that are placed in the offering plate during worship. Since we can't do that this year, we are calling for nominations via a Google form: [click here](#) OR you may contact **Mary Ann Compton** by [email](#) OR call her at 919-452-6500 to submit your nominations. Especially in these unusual times, we look forward to hearing your suggestions of who should lead us as we work out how to continue being the church to each other and to the world around us. Thank you for your help.

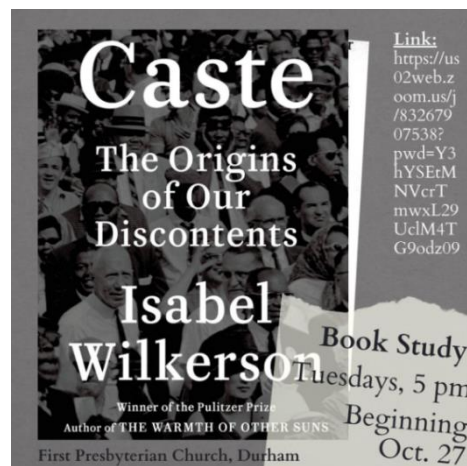
Dawn Shelton and **Mary Ann Compton**,
Co-chairs of the Nominating Committee

FALL BOOK STUDY

Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.

Mindy Douglas leads the book study.

Click [here](#) for ways to access the class.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM

ADVENT PRAYERS



THURSDAYS, 8 PM

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRESDURHAM/](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresdurham/)



Support for Those who Mourn

Growing thru Grief offers year-round support to people who have lost a loved one. Currently we are meeting on zoom each week.

Here is a preview of our coming speakers:

December 8	Debbie Davis	Cello Performance
December 15	Andrea Bowen	Care for the Grieving Self through the Holidays
December 22	Janet Stolp	To be determined
December 29	Vivian Harris	The Ugly Shoes Club

If you would like to attend any or all of these sessions, please send your request to admin@growingthrugrief.org. Then we can send you the information. Everyone must register every week. We need to receive your inquiry by 8 am on Monday for Tuesday's session.

We meet each Tuesday from 4:15-6, with a presentation plus small group discussion. For more information about Growing thru Grief, check out our website, growingthrugrief.org.



Friday, December 18, 12 noon-1:00 p.m. (Online)

Join NC Poet Laureate *Jaki Shelton Green* for a Zoom discussion on one of James Baldwin's essays, *Equal in Paris*, written shortly before Christmas 1949. Green is the first African American and third woman to be appointed as a North Carolina Poet Laureate. This presentation will provide a different perspective and lens for reimagining Christmas this holiday season. Registration is free, but donations are encouraged. [Click here](#) to register.



HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS . . .

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in communication with our partners and is responding to the urgent needs in Central America following Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Iota made landfall one week after Eta and hit many of the same regions. The double impact of these storms has resulted in over 100 lives lost and significant damage from flooding and mudslides; mass evacuations are further complicated by COVID-19. Priorities for the response include WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food security, shelter, and livelihood restoration. PDA needs our help to ensure that it can continue providing emergency response and long-term recovery support. **Give online: [DR000194](#).**

Provide a Meal for Families Moving Forward

A small group of faithful First Presbyterian volunteers prepares meals and provides childcare for Families Moving Forward (FMF) throughout the year, but, in the current situation, FMF has asked us to prepare a meal for *all* the families sheltering there on **Monday, December 7**, about 60 people. So we need your help! If you are willing to prepare part of this meal, please sign up using this [link](#). **Instructions:** You will bring your meal contribution to FMF (300 N. Queen St.) at **5:30 p.m. on December 7**, and, for the safety of residents and volunteers alike, just leave it on the picnic table outside.

Looking for other ways to help Families Moving Forward?

- Assist with FMF's Study Buddies program. They need volunteers to help virtually one day a week to help kids with homework E-mail Courtney@fmfnc.com.
- Provide support for FMF's annual holiday NEST by adopting a family for the holiday toy donation program. Contact caylin@fmfnc.org.
- Donate NEW twin and full comforters and sheet sets for our families to enjoy when they move in. They could also use donations of laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and other essential household items. Contact Katy@fmfnc.com if you have a donation to drop off.

Questions? Please contact [Lea Bingham](#) at 919-358-1774.

Supporting the Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel

This Christmas holiday season is going to be different for all of us, but we can still find wonderful, practical ways to share God's love with our neighbors. The Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel continues to provide large boxes of healthy food to almost 600 families a week, thanks to the dedicated help and generous donations from our community. We would welcome your participation or contributions at any time! Here are a couple of easy ways to be part of this special ministry:

1. Bag rice or beans from home. For instructions and to sign up, simply click this [link](#). Put on music, sing and have fun while you fill those bags!
2. To help in person at Iglesia Emanuel, grab your trusty mask, and come join with others in a safe environment to help organize donated food, fill bags and boxes in preparation for the Wednesday food pantry. You will work hard, but leave after your 2-hour shift knowing you have made a big difference in the lives of many families. For more information, and to sign up, click here: [Iglesia Emanuel COVID-19 Food Bank Signup Genius](#)
3. Your financial support is always welcome, and will help us purchase more food. Online: emanueldurham.org, or mail your check to Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel, 2504 N Roxboro, Durham 27704.

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Robert Daye, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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

305 EAST MAIN STREET

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701

919.682.5511

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

85



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the

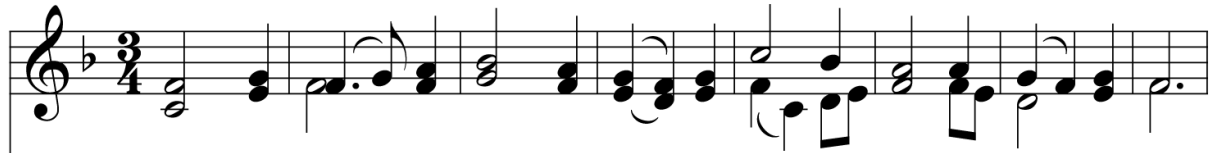


light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the
light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
tell the glad ti - dings. Let your light be shin - ing.

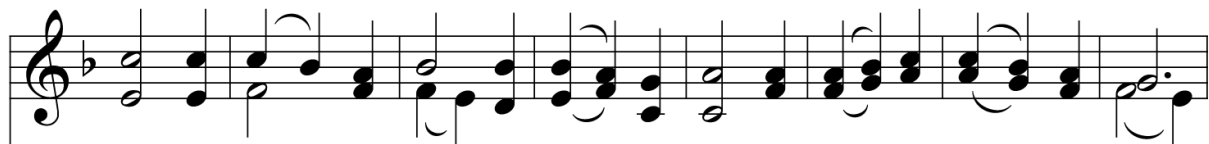
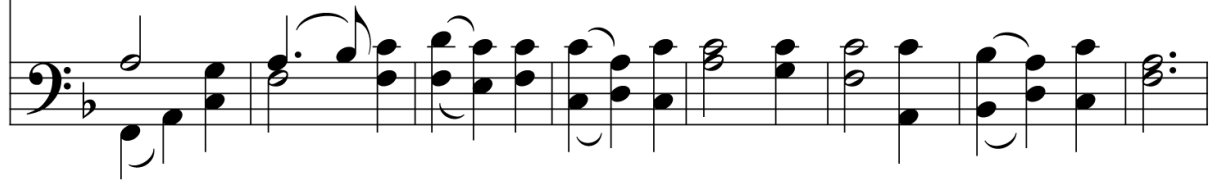
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



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



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.



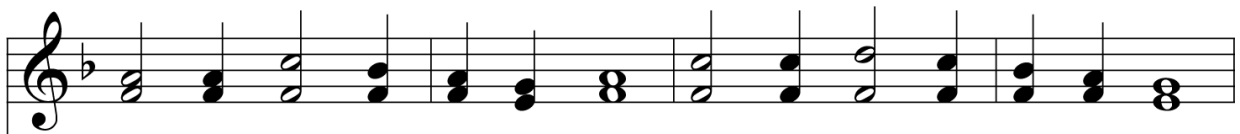
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



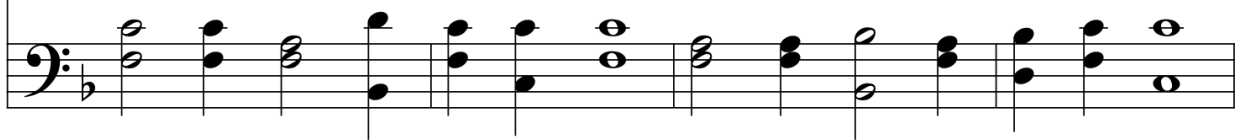
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"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.



92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.