

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE CONFESSION

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Every tree that does not bear fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are unprepared for the coming of our Lord. With our minds, our lips, and our whole lives we have disobeyed your will. We have not borne the fruits worthy of repentance. We beg your forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, and seek the power of your Holy Spirit to restore our joy..**

P: The one who is coming has come, born among us to live our life and die our death, and guarantee our resurrection. For his sake your sins are forgiven. The joy of your salvation is restored.

C: **Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

THE HYMN: “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of
your Son and to prepare his way.
Grant us, your people,
the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear
your will,
that we may witness to Christ’s coming and so prepare his way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE FIRST AND SECOND LESSONS

THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

THE HYMN – “Hark, the Glad Sound!”

THE SERMON – “An Unbreakable Christmas”

THE APOSTLES CREED

LEADER: *We confess our faith in the words of the Apostolic Creed:*

CONG: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of
the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**


THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

THE OFFERTORY AND THE GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

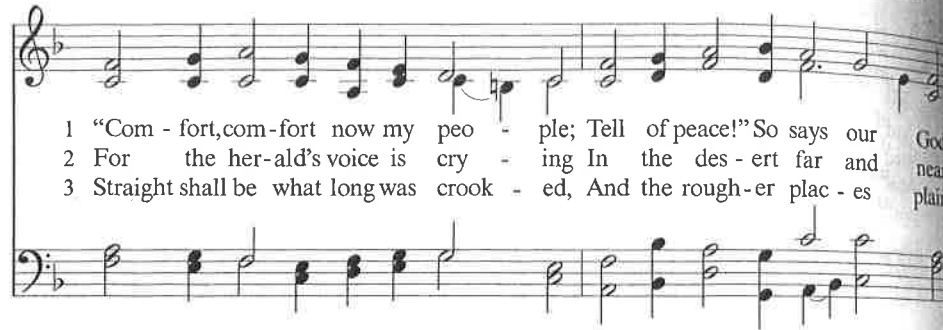
THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.

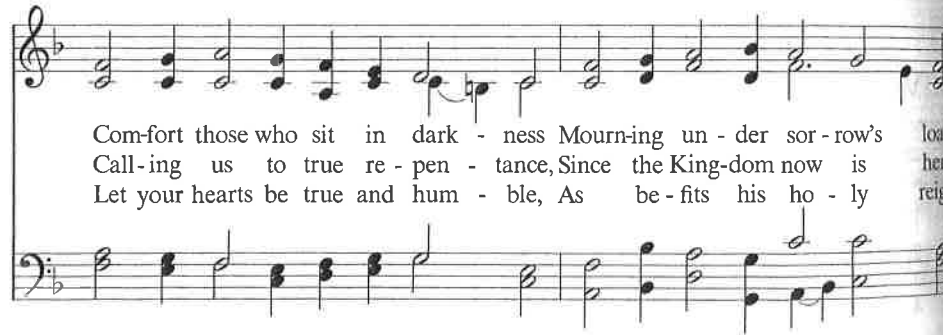
People: Amen.

THE HYMN: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

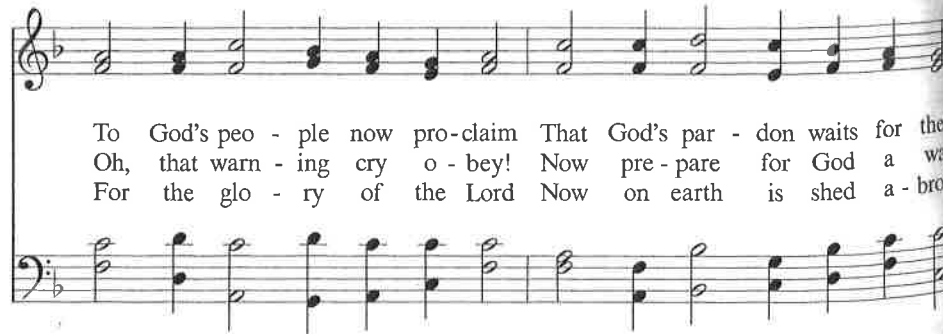
Comfort, Comfort Now My People



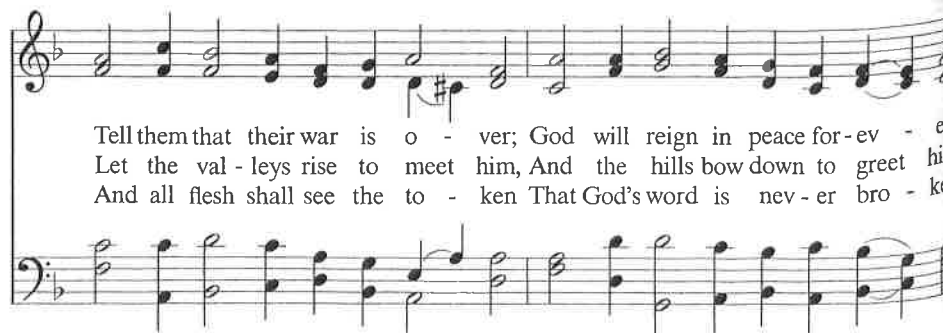
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, And the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourning un - der sor - row's load.
 Call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, Since the King - dom now is here
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign!



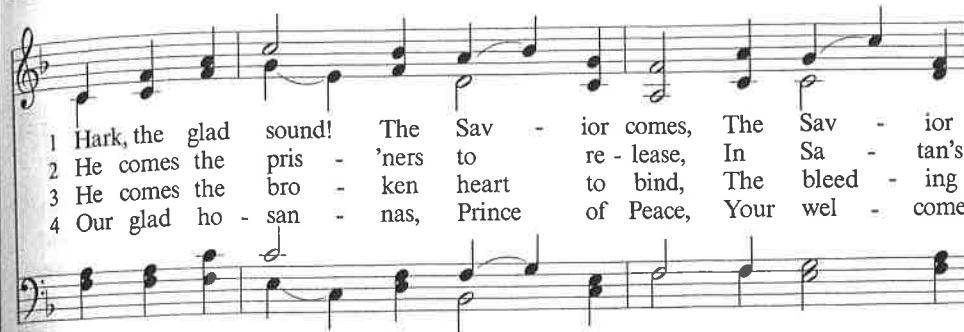
To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now on earth is shed a - broad.




Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!
 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 God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Hark, the Glad Sound!

35



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

63. PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

- 1. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

- 2. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.**

Refrain

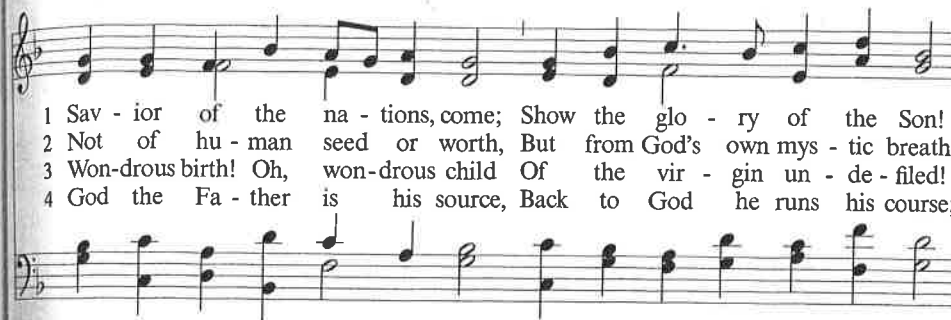
**Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood
as to understand
To be loved, as to love, with all my soul.**

- 3. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

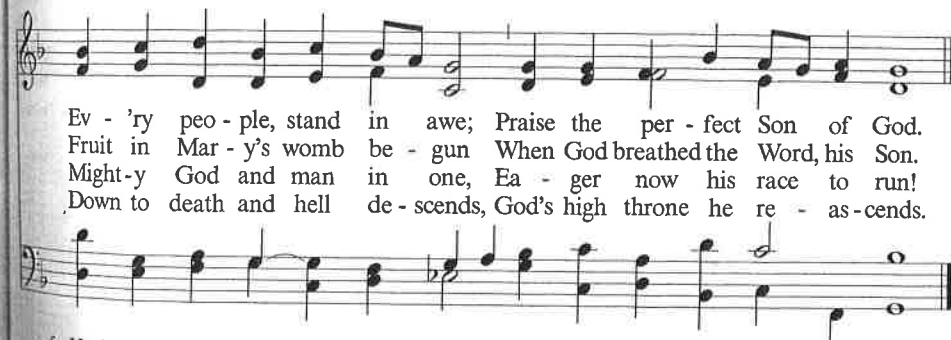
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Savior of the Nations, Come

28



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Show the glo - ry of the Son!
2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, But from God's own mys - tic breath,
3 Won-drous birth! Oh, won-drous child Of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
4 God the Fa - ther is his source, Back to God he runs his course;



Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; Praise the per - fect Son of God.
Fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun When God breathed the Word, his Son.
Might-y God and man in one, Ea - ger now his race to run!
Down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

5 He leaves heaven to return;
Trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;
Riding out, returning home
As the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son
Girds himself in flesh to run
For the trophies of our souls,
Longer than this round earth rolls.

7 Shining stable in the night,
Breathing vict'ry with your light;
Darkness cannot hide your flame,
Shining bright as Jesus' name.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When, lo, a - bove the earth Rang
 3 Down in a lone - ly man-ger The hum - ble Christ was born; And



Refrain

hold, through-out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

