



**COMFORT,
O COMFORT
MY PEOPLE,
SAYS YOUR
GOD.**

ISAIAH 40:1, NRSVUE



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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June 18, 2023

Father's Day

Welcome

Prelude

Holy Manna

arr. Margaret R. Tucker

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Opening Words

The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here. The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here. The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here. We come to prepare a way for the Lord. We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives. For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.

* Opening Prayer

* Opening Song

Praise Him, Praise Him

100

Verse 1:

Praise him, praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!
Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim!
Hail him, hail him! Highest archangels in glory!
Strength and honor give to his holy name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children.
In his arms he carries them all day long.

Refrain:

Praise him! Praise him! tell of his excellent greatness.
Praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song.

Verse 2:

Praise him, praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!
For our sins, he suffered, and bled, and died.
He our rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
hail him, hail him! Jesus, the crucified.
Sound his praises, Jesus who bore our sorrows,
love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Praise him, praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever!
Crown him, crown him! prophet, and priest, and king!
Christ is coming, over the world victorious.
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children (after, children, under 5, can go to Nursery Care)

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 46, NRSVUE

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, ³ though
its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with
its tumult. *Selah*

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the
holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of the
city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning
dawns. ⁶ The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he
utters his voice; the earth melts. ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he
has brought on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of
the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns

the shields with fire. ¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.” ¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Song

When in Our Midst God is Glorified

83

Verse 1:

When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried alleluia!

Verse 2:

How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound alleluia!

Verse 3:

So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue, alleluia!

Verse 4:

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the Light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: alleluia!

Verse 5:

Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always alleluia!

Congregational Prayer

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Special Music

Thoughts on Giving

Amy Carmichael

You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving.

Song

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

6 1 0

Precious Lord, Take My Hand by Thomas Andrew Dorsey
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Music: 1983 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing)
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Verse 1:

Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, help me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Verse 2:

When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Verse 3:

When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11, NRSVUE

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her

term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades, [when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades,] but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

Sermon

"Comfort, Comfort, O My People"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Song**

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

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Comfort Comfort Now My People (Geneva 42) by Catherine Winkworth, Johannes G. Olearius, John L. Bell, Louis Bourgeois
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Verse 1:

Comfort, comfort, O my people,
speak of peace, now says our God.
Comfort those who sit in shadows,

mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak unto Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them.
Tell of all the sins I cover,
and that warfare now is over.

Verse 2:

Hark, the voice of one who's crying
in the desert far and near,
bidding all to full repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Valleys, rise in exaltation;
hills, bow down in adoration.

Verse 3:

O make straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits a holy reign.
For the glory of our God
now o'er earth is shed abroad.
And all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

* **Benediction**

Postlude

There is a balm in Gilead

arr. Mark Hayes

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Ann Andrus
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Prelude Music	Our Handbells
	Alyce Newman, Ann Andrus, Barbara Beers, Carol Goss, Gail Rhodes, Ken Heatwole, Kevin Beers, Shaun Finchum, & Sarah Hartman <small>(director)</small>
Special Music	Anna & Travis Williams
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist	Nancy Heishman
Tech & Media Dir.	Kevin Beers