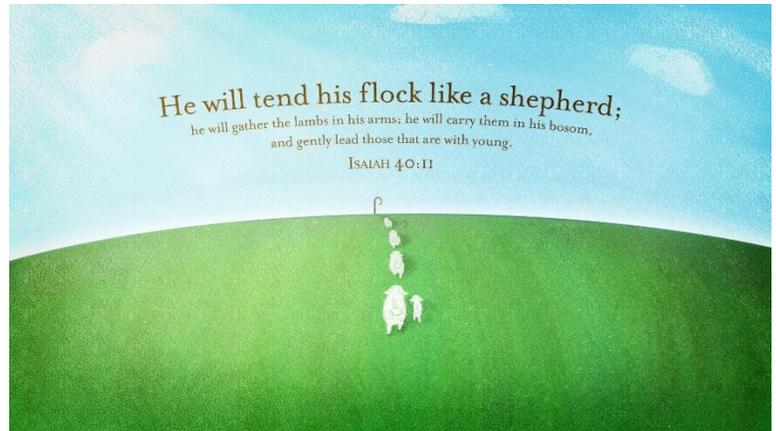


Advent 2

Isaiah 40:1-11

God's Word for Today

John the Baptist prepared Israel for the coming Savior's ministry by calling the people to repentance. We also prepare for Christ's coming by turning away from sin and turning to God in repentance.



WARM UP

What is the most exciting news you ever received? Why was it so welcome?

What was your high point for the week?

INTO THE TEXT

Note: The second half of the book of Isaiah takes a different view of the future than the first half. In the first half of the book, Isaiah was addressing the threat coming on Israel when he wrote, that is, the Assyrian world power. Here he looks to the future, to the time when the super power of Babylon had taken Judah into captivity. He sees its deliverance by the next super power, Persia, which pictures the deliverance the Savior would bring.

Read Isaiah 40:1-11.

Verses 3-5 can refer to God's glory in releasing his people from the Babylonian captivity and preparing a path for them to travel home. However, the chief fulfillment is found in the New Testament. Read Matthew 3:3. Who was the ultimate fulfillment?

What purpose does the Lord want to achieve in verses 6-8?

What do you think Isaiah means by the message "Here is your God" (verse 9)? This question helps us see the multiple fulfillments of a prophecy over the course of time.

What stood out to you the most from Sunday's sermon? Any questions that you'd like to ask in regard to the sermon?

GOD'S WORD FOR MY DAILY LIFE

Which of these verses would provide the best text for an evangelism sermon? Explain why you chose that answer.

Why do God's witnesses not have to be afraid when they speak his message?

How can you "prepare the way" in your life for Jesus? What needs leveling or shoring up?

How can this group support and pray for you right now?

CLOSING PRAYER

My Next Step

- **Key Verse.** *"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40:11)*
- **Key Response.** Isaiah predicts the prophet who will prepare the Lord's path, encourages us to place our trust in the Lord, and announces God's future deliverance. We respond to God's tending to us with a life of thanksgiving.