

Liturgy for Corporate Worship

The Lord’s Day

December 15, 2024

Prelude

Chris Holmberg

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Choir

Christ, Be Our Light!

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.
Christ be our light!*

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Lighting of the Advent Candle

Call to Worship

Psalm 24:7-10

Opening Hymn

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We Gather Together

Corporate Prayer of Confession & Silent Confession

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, we were born guilty, sinners when our mothers conceived us. Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from us, we pray through him who loved us and gave himself for us, even our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 53:6

The Gloria Patri

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Elder Sam Winegarden

The Lord’s Prayer

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. 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.

Unison Scripture Reading

Romans 5:1-5

Anthem

Choir

Almost There

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Hymn

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Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Sermon

Elder Chris Holmberg

Zephaniah 3:14-20...*Joy for the Mean Time*

Closing Hymn

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Joy to the World

Benediction

Parting Hymn

God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet; Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

Featured Element of Worship: The Advent Wreath

Advent wreaths are typically circular and made of evergreen leaves, both of which symbolize the eternal life that belongs to all who trust in Jesus Christ. One of the wreath’s five candles is lit the first Sunday of Advent, along with an additional candle each of the following Sundays leading up to Christmas. The three purple candles represent hope, peace and love, and are purple as a symbol both of Christ’s royalty and our repentance. The pink candle represents joy, which is ours as we anticipate Light breaking into a dark world through the coming of Christ Jesus, our Lord. The white-colored center candle (often called “the Christ candle”) symbolizes the perfect holiness and purity of Jesus, and is traditionally lit on Christmas Eve.

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3. We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing;
so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
Let thy con - gre - ga - tion en - dure through tri - bu - la - tion:

sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glo - ry be thine!
thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

Netherlands folk hymn
Tr. Theodore Baker, 1917
Alt. 1990

KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
Adrianus Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626
Harm. Edward Kremser, 1877

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Unison Scripture Reading...Romans 5:1-5

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Anthem

Almost There

Mary, full of innocence,
Carrying the Holy Prince,
You're almost there, you're almost there.
Mother of the Living Word,
Trusting in the voice you heard,
You're almost there, you're almost there.
You're almost where the angels see
Redemption's plan unfolding.
All hope is in the son you'll bear;
You're almost there.

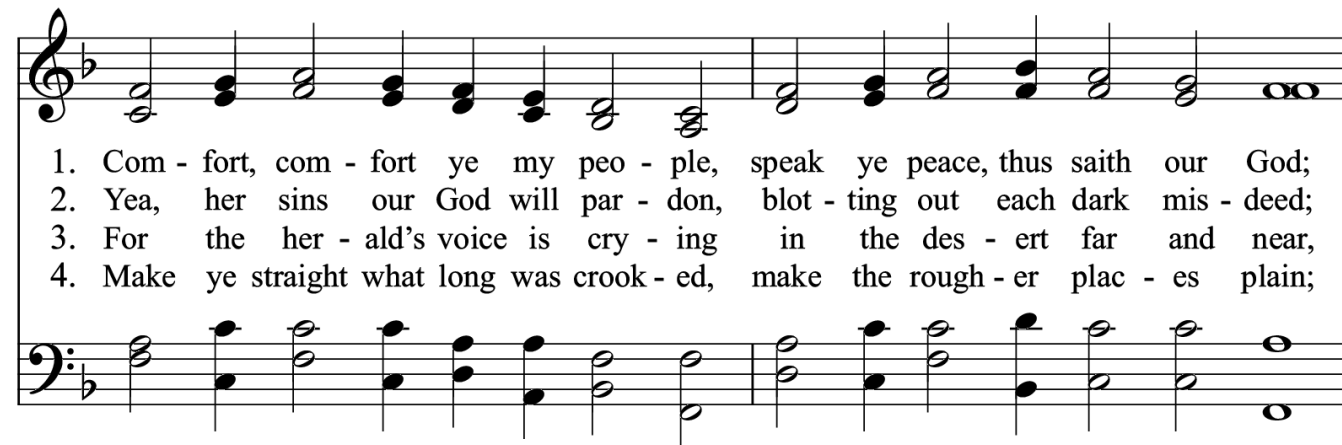
You're almost where the waiting ends,
Delivering the Life within,
The answered prayer, Emmanuel;
You're almost there.
You're almost where the journey ends,
Where death will die and life begins,
The answered prayer, Emmanuel;
You're almost there.

A lonely road, a willing heart,
Prayer for strength to do your part;
You're almost there, you're almost there.
Trust the Father to provide
Bread of Heaven prophesied;
You're almost there, you're almost there.

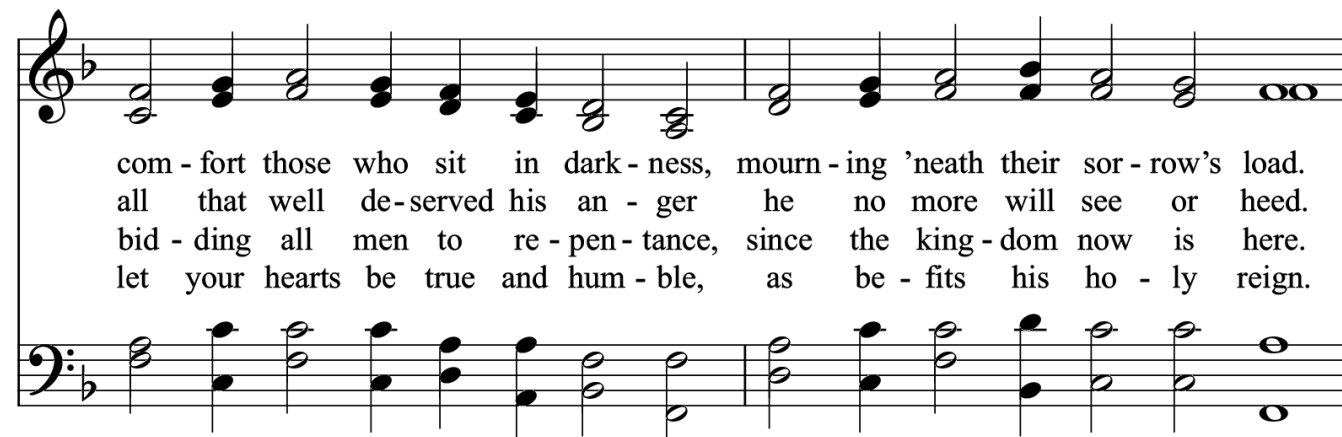
Words and Music by: Michael W. Smith, Wes King,
Amy Grant
Choral Setting: Heather Sorenson
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Comfort, Comfort Ye My People


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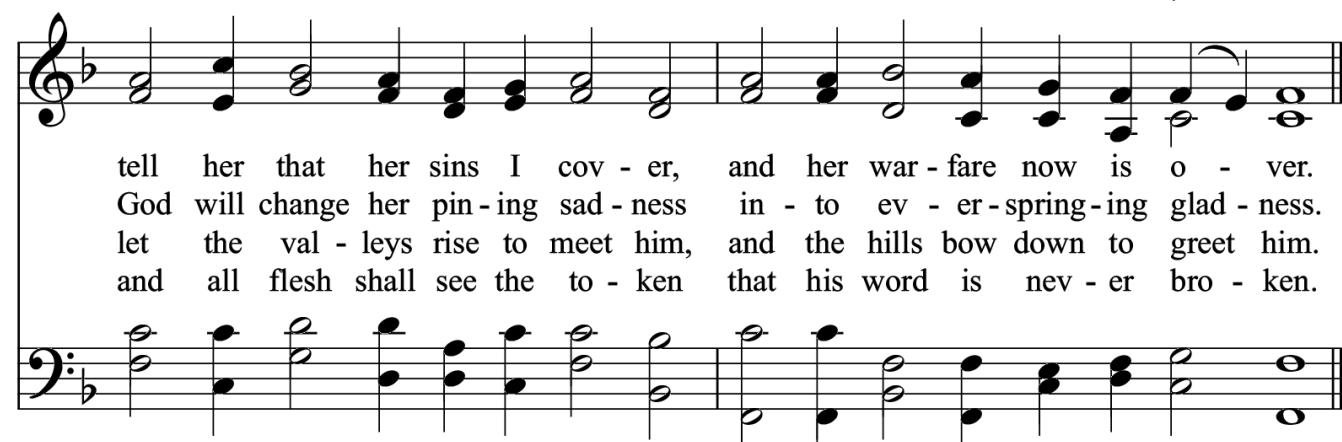
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
 all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
 bid - ding all men to 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.




Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 God will change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 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 his word is nev - er bro - ken.

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Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions



King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

Sermon Notes

1. The Requirement of Joy (3:14)

2. The Reasons for Joy (3:15-20)

- Because the LORD has... (3:15a)

- Because the LORD is... (3:15b, 17a)

- Because the LORD will... (3:16, 17b-20)

WELCOME to this morning’s service of corporate worship!

The Flowers adorning our worship this have been provided by Jerry & Joanne Dosh in celebration of their 36th anniversary, and by Jim & Chris Campbell to the glory of God.

This Christmas, the Martha Mary Circle will be providing \$5 Walmart gift cards for the kids at Whaley’s Children’s Home. If you would like to donate to their efforts, checks made out to Martha-Mary Circle or Walmart gift cards should be given to Wanda Knight.

Food Baskets for Christmas are being prepared again this year by the Martha Mary Circle. Any donated non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted, (purchased in 2024). Ideas for food donations may include: Canned meats, canned dinners, boxed meals, peanut butter & jelly, condiments, boxed Velveeta Cheese, Chunky Soups & canned vegetables, breakfast foods, turkey dinner fixings. Any money donated specifically to this effort will be used to purchase hams and other items for each family’s basket. If you know of a family in need of a basket (two requests per person), you will find sign-up forms on the desk in the Church Office. Thank you!

Christmas Cards: The Deacons realize that the task of sending greetings to all friends in the church is a big undertaking! To lessen the burden during this rushed season they are encouraging us again this year to send just one card to the entire congregation. These cards will be used to decorate the Friendship Tree in the Narthex and the names of senders will be listed weekly in the bulletin. Those wishing to donate all or part of the savings in cards and postage will find them put to good use by the Diaconate.

Greetings have been received from: Jim & Karen Hayden, Anne Haughey, Dorothy Heidtman, Jim & Ellen Jones, Phil & Sharon Koerber, Mary Jo Lorenz, Pete & Erin Scribner, Doug & Dana Stoddard, Mick & Ann Tulgetske.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 6:30pm on December 24th.

Last Week’s Congregational Meeting led to the election of Bob Daily and Chris Holmberg as Elders, Ron Busch, Jacob Tebo & Mark Younce as Deacons, and Bob Studer as a member of the Nominating Committee. Praise God for raising up people to serve at Calvary!

<u>This Week at Calvary</u>		
Today	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service followed by coffee, donuts & fellowship
	11:30	Sunday School

Tuesday	No Tuesdays at Two	
Thursday	4:00	Session
Friday	Office Closed	
Next Sunday	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service followed by coffee, donuts & fellowship
	11:30	Sunday School

<u>Church Staff</u>		
Pastor		Pete Scribner
Director of Music		Susan Lechota
Music Minister		Chris Holmberg
Custodian		Vicky Haughey

Offerings are received each week in the wooden donation box in the Narthex. We have placed it there as a convenience for our members and friends. If you are visiting us this Sunday, please feel no pressure to make any donation. We are glad to have you simply be our guest today, and invite you to join us for a

Meditation for the Week

We often wonder how it is that we can rejoice in the midst of the darkness of life. The answer is not that we play some game of make-believe. We don't pretend that things right now aren't as bad as they in fact are. True Christian joy in this life is the joy of anticipation. It is not the celebration that healing and wholeness have arrived, but neither is it simply a hope in maybes. Because this Child has come, because of the work that He has done, and because He now sits in heaven at the Father's right hand, the future is secure. The veil wrapped over the earth will be torn asunder. The tears we now cry will be dried. Death, that hound that dogs our heels, will finally be put down, and we will be delivered from its teeth.

On that day we will rejoice with the arrival of new creation. In this season, while that is not yet ours, we can nonetheless rejoice in its anticipation. We can face all that is wrong in life squarely in the face and, though our hearts break for the wrongness of it, we can laugh the deep laughter of those who know it will be made right. In this season we rejoice in the hope of that coming day when the tune of salvation begun in Bethlehem reaches the glorious climax of the world to come.

Eric Tonjes

A Cold Coming: Meditations for Advent

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Calvary Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024



Our Mission - We exist to know, worship, serve, and enjoy the one true God.

Our Vision - We seek to love God completely, love others selflessly, and everywhere proclaim Christ: crucified, risen, and reigning forever.

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