



# Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

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1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace;” thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o’er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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## “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

This hymn is based on Isaiah 40:1-8. The message of comfort presupposes that divine judgment has brought the people to repentance. In 687 B.C. Babylon unleashed against Jerusalem its policies of destroying a conquered city’s architecture and wiping out an entire environment. When Nebuchadnezzar defeated Judah, it looked as though his gods Marduk (Bel) and Nebo (Isaiah 46:1) had triumphed over the God of Israel.

Israel’s hurt was deep. But Yahweh’s comfort was deeper. The people were “dead in transgressions and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). So Yahweh, “being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us” (Eph. 2:4), took the initiative and spoke the Gospel. This comforting Gospel message came even before Israel had responded in repentance and faith. God always had a message of comfort for His people, even in times of deep affliction; the end of all his dealings with them was the establishment of holiness and happiness.

The words *Comfort, comfort* (Isaiah 40:1) are repeated for emphasis and mean “Comfort greatly.” After all their unfaithfulness, all their rebellion, all their sins, they were still God’s people. He remained their God and spoke through his prophet to provide them with his comfort. This happens for us, too, when we hear the wonderful news of forgiveness through Word and the Sacraments. Then we can be spokespeople for those around us.

Verses 3 and 4 once again speak of John the Baptist’s work in getting people ready for Jesus. These verses reflect Isaiah 40:8, which states, “the word of our God stands forever.” The plans and purposes of the nations will not prevail. Unlike the frailty of created things, God’s Word remains for all time. We also hear in Matthew 24:35, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank you for never giving up on your people, including us. Help us lay our sins of commission and omission before you and hear from your servant that they have been forgiven. Help us see how you can use us to bring peace to those around us. Amen.