

FIRST PRESTERIAN CHURCH  
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

Hymns for Sunday, December 6, 2020

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

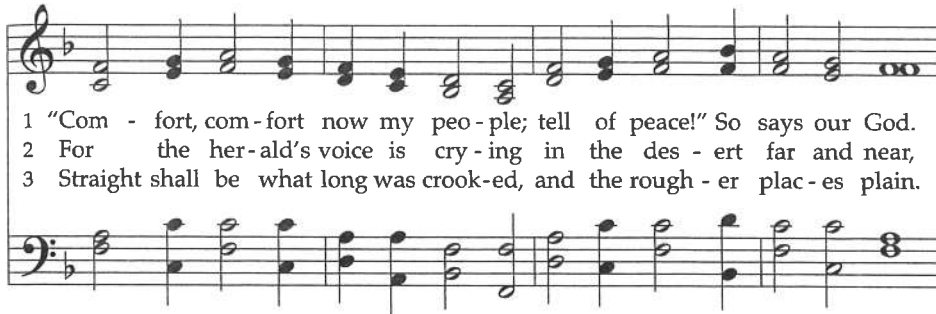
1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

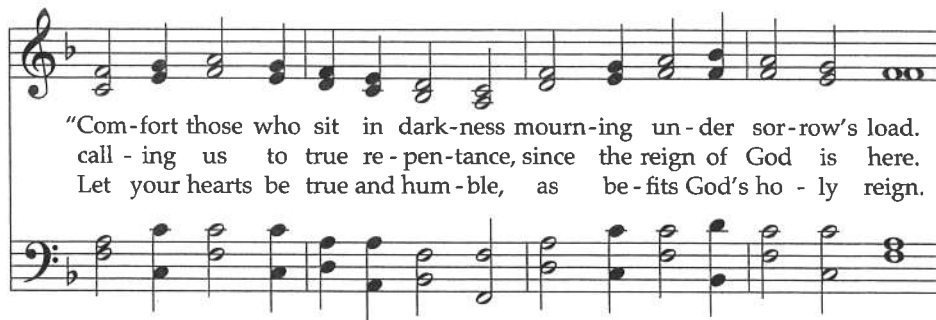
draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7-10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

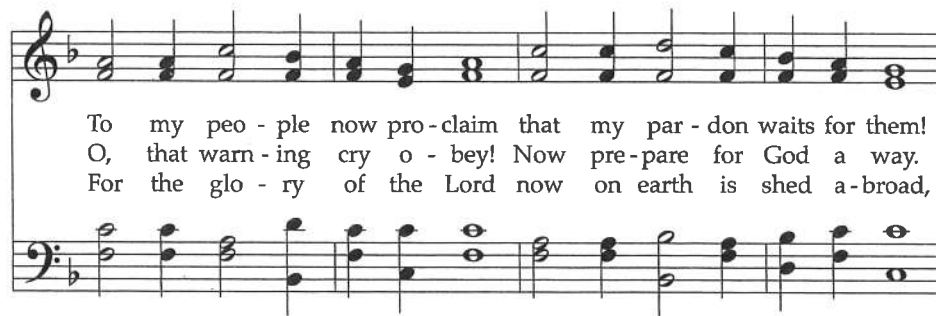
# Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



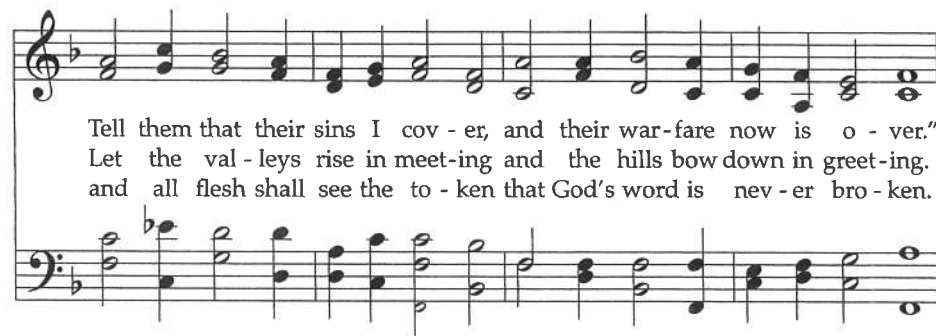
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!  
 O, 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 sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

# Still, Still, Still

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1 Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The vir - gin's  
2 Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum - ber deep while an - gel

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics for two different verses.

ten - der arms en - fold - ing, warm and safe the child are hold - ing.  
hosts from heaven come wing - ing, sweet - est songs of joy are sing - ing.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, with lyrics describing the scene of the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus.

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum - ber deep.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics repeat the first two lines of the first system.

The great virtue of this Austrian carol is its sheer simplicity, which is reinforced by the re-use of the first two lines as the last two. This narrow scope makes the text into the verbal equivalent of a close-up photograph or painting, so that the sleeping child seems very near.

TEXT: Austrian carol; trans. George K. Evans, 1963  
MUSIC: Austrian carol; arr. Walter Ehret, 1963  
Text and Music © 1963, 1980 Walter Ehret and George K. Evans (admin. Walton Music Corp.)

STILL, STILL, STILL  
3.6.9.8.3.6