

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP**

Sunday, December 6, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday

***Welcome and Greeting***

***Prelude:*** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (Traditional French Carol, arr. Mark Hayes)

***Opening Sentences***

***Hymn 84:*** "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

***Lighting of the Advent Candle:*** The Candle of Peace

***Opening Prayer***

***Special Music:*** "He Shall Feed His Flock" (from George Frideric Handel's Messiah)

***Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer***

***Old Testament Reading:*** Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 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:*** "BEYOND THIS MESS"

***Observance of Holy Communion***

***Hymn 85:*** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

***Benediction***

***Benediction Response 580 (v. 1):*** "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again"

**Participants:** Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Pastor Jacob Richards, Barb Fuller, Tom and Marsha Hacker

## COMMUNION RITUAL

### CONFESSION

**All:** Forgiving God, we come to this table knowing that we often fall short of all that you desire for us. Sometimes we fail both as individuals and as a community of faith. We seek your mercy and grace, as we ask you for forgiveness and renewal, that we may better follow you. In the name of your Son, Amen.

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**Minister:** We have this assurance that no matter how far we wander, or how far away we feel from God, we never move outside the boundaries of God's gracious love for us. We are loved, we are forgiven, we are blessed. We celebrate open communion here at Mayflower Church, in the tradition of our Beloved Teacher who welcomed all to the Supper, even those who betrayed him, or ran away in fear.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**Minister:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

### THE INVITATION

**Minister:** We welcome you to this table, whether you are a member of this church, another church, or no church. All you need is faith, or a desire for faith. This is the time when we all acknowledge our past failures, sins, and disappointments, and present ourselves to God, who offers us love, forgiveness, and wholeness. Remember, God accepts us just where we are and who we are at this very moment in our lives.

### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

**Minister:** On the night when He was betrayed, as Jesus sat at supper with His disciples, He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and said to them, "Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." After supper Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and blessed it, saying, "This is the cup of the new testament in My blood: do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again." Ministering to you in His name, I give you this bread. . . Ministering to you in His name, I give you this cup.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**All:** We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this memorial of your love, and have granted to us the presence of your Son, even Jesus Christ our Lord, and we ask you to strengthen our faith in you and to increase our love toward one another, through Him, our Redeemer. Amen.

# THE TRIUNE GOD

## 84

## Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Isaiah 40:1-8

Johann Olearius, 1611-1684

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

1. Com - fort, com - fort, ye my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus  
2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth In the des - ert  
3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er

saith our God; Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
far and near, Bid - ding all men to re - pent - ance  
plac - es plain; Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load. Speak ye to Je -  
Since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
As be - fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

GENEVA 42  
8.7.8.7.7.8.8

Second verse: "Bidding *people* to repentance"

## THE TRIUNE GOD

Tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
Let the val - leys rise to meet Him  
And all flesh shall see the to - ken

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Tell her that her sins I cov - er, Let the val - leys rise to meet Him And all flesh shall see the to - ken'.

And her war - fare now is o - ver.  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
That His word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.

The second system of musical notation continues with a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'And her war - fare now is o - ver. And the hills bow down to greet Him. That His word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.'.

O God of power and might, Creator of light and of darkness, of the earth and the stars, speak anew to Your people gathered to worship You and sing Your praise. Like Israel of old we wait in darkness, anticipating the Light who will dawn upon us and lift us from shadowy gloom into the glowing splendor of Your presence. So, we ask You, speak to us a word of comfort, a word of hope, a word that will keep our anticipation alive as we wait for the Coming One who brings Your creative Word into our very flesh and makes us one with You. Enable us, in turn, to be bringers of comfort to those who long and wait for You, preparing the way of Your kingdom, already present and yet to come. All this we ask in the name of him whom prophets foretold, the Word who speaks comfort and hope, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Steven A. Peay, Ph.D.

# THE TRIUNE GOD

## 85

## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Based on Psalm 24

Thomas Williams', *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

Georg Weissel, 1590-1635

Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;  
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;  
3. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide  
4. So come, my Sov - 'reign; en - ter in!  
5. O blest the land, the cit - y blest,

Be - hold the King of glo - ry waits!  
Make it a tem - ple, set a - part  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, a - bid!  
Let new and no - bler life be - gin;  
Where Christ the rul - er is con - fest!

The King of kings is draw - ing near;  
From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy,  
Let me Thy in - ner pres - ence feel;  
Thy Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on,  
O hap - py hearts and hap - py homes

The Sav - ior of the world is here.  
A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
Thy grace and love in me re - veal.  
Un - til the glo - rious crown be won.  
To whom this King of tri - umph comes! A - men.