



**First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC  
December 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
Second Sunday in Advent**

*I like the night. Without the dark, we'd never see the stars. — Stephenie Meyer*

**GATHERING MUSIC/PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Psalm 77)

Leader: Let us cry aloud to God, that God may hear.

**People: We will recall the deeds of God, and remember the wonders of old.**

Leader: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

**People: You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed  
your might among the peoples.**

Leader: With your strong arm you redeemed your people,  
you redeemed the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**People: Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters;  
yet your footprints were unseen.**

**All: You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

**\*HYMN**    NCH #115    *The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore*

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)**

God, your Spirit filled the prophets and drove them to cry out for justice. They dared to hope for peace that surpasses understanding. We, too, yearn for the Prince of Peace to rule our lives. We seek the path you set before us, so we might become the people you intend us to be. Kindle in us the desire to serve you in ways that free us to be our best selves. Join our hearts and minds to your purpose, as we offer you our silent prayers...

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: May the peace of God be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE** - Paul and Ann Looney

Leader: We light the first Advent Candle again to remember  
the hope of the prophets.    (One candle is lit.)

Leader: We light the second candle to proclaim the coming of the  
Prince of Peace into the conflicts in our world. (The second candle is lit.)

Leader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we seek to become  
instruments of God's peace.

**People: We remember John the Baptist who prepared the way for Christ  
with water and the word, and we prepare by showing the hope  
that burns within and witnessing to the peace we must have around us.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**All:    Gracious God, we hear the promise of the coming of Jesus into a manger,  
into our hearts and homes. Bless our Advent waiting; let us not run ahead,  
but fill our worship with anticipation of your peace. Dedicate us to  
Prepare your way by lifting up the valleys and making smooth the rough  
places in ourselves and in our world. Amen.**

**ADVENT HYMN**    TWC #133, verse 3    *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (Trespases)

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **SUNG AMEN**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:** Isaiah 11:1–10; Matthew 3:1–12

### **SCRIPTURE RESPONSE:**

Leader: For the Word in Scripture, for the Word among us,  
for the Word within us:

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SUNG RESPONSE:** Psalm 119: 105 (all singing, 2 times)

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
And a light unto my path*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN** TWC #132 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

## **CALL TO OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY** (Old Hundredth)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, the Word in flesh born low;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

God, you have given us so much. Your blessings overwhelm us. Accept this portion we return to you for ministry in your name. May we always be known for our warm welcome, our passion for justice, and for shining forth your light in all that we do and say. In Christ we pray. Amen.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not lived the lives of which we are capable. We have gifts that we have not used, and gifts we have misused. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have turned our backs on our sisters and brothers in need, and in doing so, shut the doors of our hearts to the love you offer them through us. Forgive us we pray. Cleanse and renew our hearts, that we might resume the path of discipleship with courage, strength, and endurance, even as we offer you the silent confessions of our hearts...

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE****INVITATION****COMMUNION PRAYER (unison)**

Gracious God, we now dedicate these elements to become sacraments of ministry, signs of your work and witness among us. Do bless this bread and this fruit, and in the common sharing of them bless us all by the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. In this meal we remember Christ's sacrifice and his call that we also might serve, we embrace each other along his pathways, and we look with hope for the transformation of the world in his love. May we, your servant community, become ourselves bread for the journey and fruit for the spirit among all peoples and powers of the earth. Amen.

**COMMUNION HYMN** NCH #345 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE****PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)**

We give thanks, O Lord of Life, that you have refreshed us at your table and refashioned us in your hope for community. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world as Christ's witnesses with courage and in peace. All this we pray in the name of your son, our friend, and teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**HYMN** NCH #42 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**     *Go Now in Peace*

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

**POSTLUDE**

\*Those who are able, please stand.

**Pastor:** The Reverend Richard Malmberg  
**Music Director:** Amy Cann, **Zoom Director:** Paul Looney  
**Liturgist:** Linda Wright  
**Lay reader:** Kathy Reilly  
**Ushers and Greeters:** Don and Jana Sellarole  
**Church Staff:**  
**Office Administrator:** Jane Vesper **Treasurer:** Tracey Martin  
**Church Office Hours** T- F. 9 a.m.-12 noon  
**Telephone:** 603-756-4075  
**Email:** [walpolechurch@yahoo.com](mailto:walpolechurch@yahoo.com). **Website:** [www.walpolenhucc.org](http://www.walpolenhucc.org)

Please pray for the following people:  
**Sue Durgin, Bob Rhodes, Dean Prentiss, David Price**

**Our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe**

**Members living in retirement homes.**  
**Patsy Campbell, Gina Nason, Virginia Putnam, Vaughnette Neal,**  
**Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp**

Sue Durgin's address:  
Sue Durgin, Pheasant Wood, 50 Pheasant Road  
Peterborough, NH 03458

**Anniversaries this week:**  
Mark and Nancy Hamblet Lightner on December 5<sup>th</sup>

## **Readings for Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2022**

### **Lesson from the Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness, he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.  
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### **The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



# The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

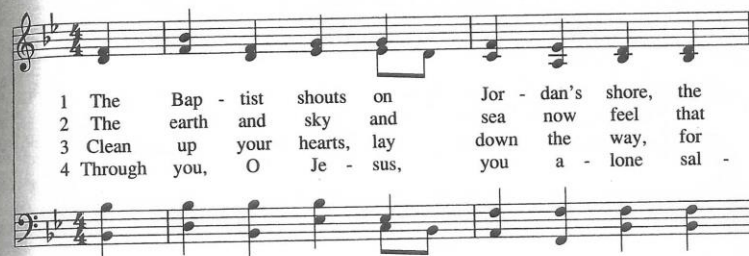
ADVENT

## The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

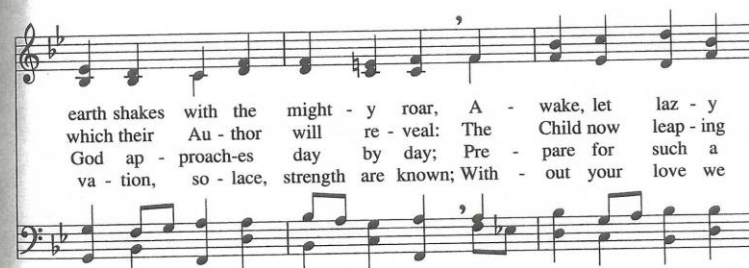
115

Charles Coffin, 1736  
Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

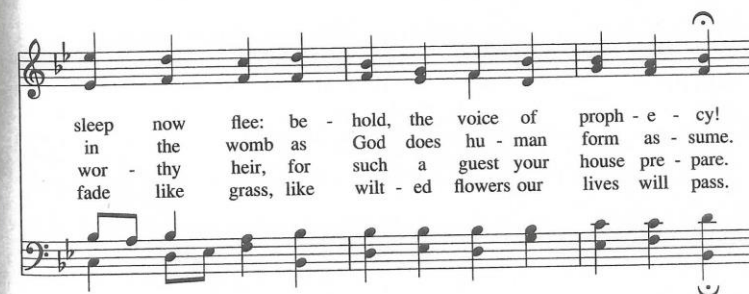
John 1:6-8, 19-28; Mark 1:1-8;  
Luke 3:2-6, 15-18; Matt. 3:1-6, 11-12



1 The Bap - tist shouts on Jor - dan's shore, the  
2 The earth and sky and sea now feel that  
3 Clean up your hearts, lay down the way, for  
4 Through you, O Je - sus, you a - lone sal -



earth shakes with the might - y roar, A - wake, let laz - y  
which their Au - thor will re - veal: The Child now leap - ing  
God ap - proach-es day by day; Pre - pare for such a  
va - tion, so - lace, strength are known; With - out your love we



sleep now flee: be - hold, the voice of proph - e - cy!  
in the womb as God does hu - man form as - sume.  
wor - thy heir, for such a guest your house pre - pare.  
fade like grass, like wilt - ed flowers our lives will pass.

5 Your hands ex-tend, our pain em-brace,  
lift up the pros-trate, show your face;  
Though we in part your beau-ty know,  
O blos-som forth, your splen-dor show.

6 O One who comes to set us free,  
O Child, to you our song will be,  
With Fa-ther, Spir-it moth-er-ing,  
to you shall praise for-ev-er ring!

Charles Coffin, distinguished scholar and Latin author,  
was rector of the University of Paris for a time. The hymn,  
appearing here in a new translation, is from a breviary ordered  
by the archbishop of Paris to replace ancient Latin hymns with  
newer ones.

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW L.M.  
Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 133

*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Is. 7:14*



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
3. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
4. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
5. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un -  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save and  
 ad - vent here; and drive a - way the shades of night, and  
 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and  
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill



## Refrain



til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 give them vic - tory o'er the grave.  
 pierce the clouds and bring us light! Re - joice! re - joice! Em -  
 close the path to mis - er - y.  
 all the world with heav - en's peace.



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!



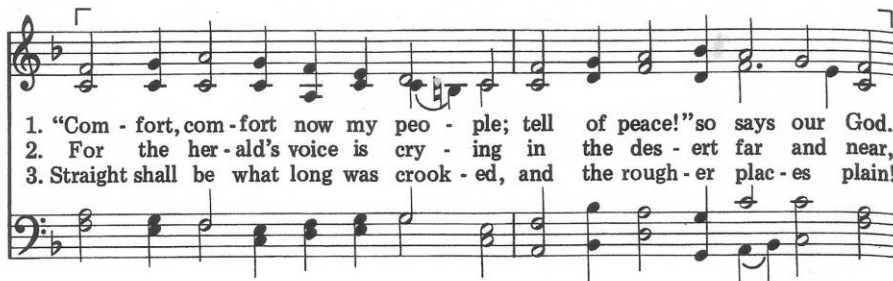
WORDS: Latin hymn, 12th C.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851; st. 5, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916  
 MUSIC: Thomas Helmore, 1854; based on plainsong phrases

VENI EMMANUEL  
 8.8.8.8.8.8.

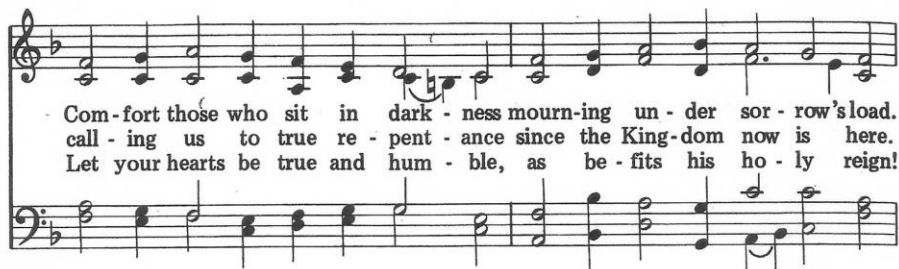
JESUS CHRIST

# 132 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

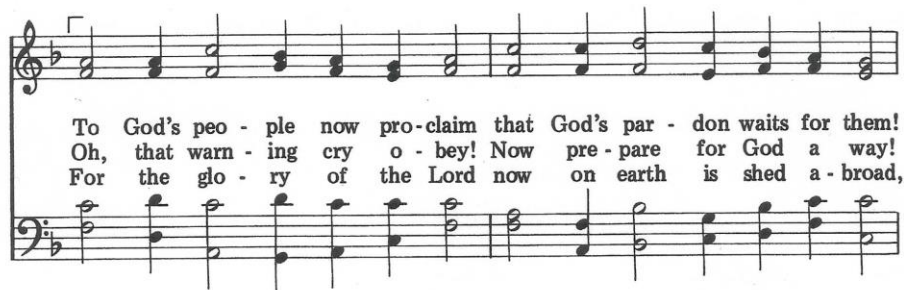
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Is. 40:1



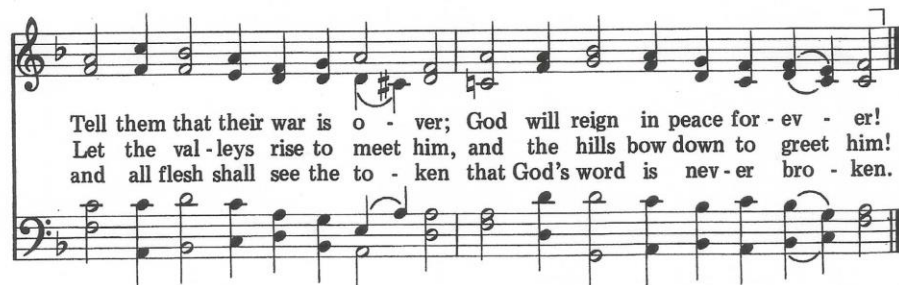
1. "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" so says our God.  
2. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3. Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pent - ance since the King - dom now is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro - claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, 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 war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!  
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 God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

WORDS: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.  
MUSIC: Louis Bougeois, 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564

GENEVAN 42  
8.7.8.7.7.8.8.

HOLY COMMUNION

345

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Isa. 6:1-3; 1 Tim. 6:13-15

From the Liturgy of St. James, 4th century  
Transl. Gerard Moultrie, 1864; alt.

1 Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, and with fear and  
2 Mon-arch great, yet born of Mar-y, as of old on  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard  
4 At Christ's feet the six-winged ser-aphs, cher-u-bim with

trem-bling stand; Pon-der noth-ing earth-ly-mind-ed,  
earth Christ stood, Lord of all, in hu-man-ves-ture—  
on the way, As the Light of light de-scend-ing  
sleep-less eye. Veil their fac-es to the Pres-ence,

for with bless-ing in the hand, Christ our God to  
in the bod-y and the blood—Christ will give to  
from the realms of end-less day, That the powers of  
as with cease-less voice they cry, Al-le-lu-ia,

This Greek hymn comes from the Liturgy of St. James of Jerusalem. It has been paraphrased by Gerard Moultrie, a priest of the Church of England. The French folk melody first appeared with these words in The English Hymnal (1906).  
Harmonisation Copyright © Oxford University Press. From The English Hymnal 1906.

Tune: PICARDY 8.7.8.7.  
French carol melody, 17th century  
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HOLY COMMUNION

earth de-scend-ing, our full hom-age to de-mand,  
all the faith-ful bread of life for heav-en-ly food,  
hell may van-ish as the shad-ows clear a-way,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, God most high!

Hymn NCH #42 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories ever echoing  
the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that calms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease  
Is music in the sinner's ears,  
is life, and health, and peace!

Glory to God, and love and praise  
be ever, ever given  
By all the saints in every age,  
the church in earth and heaven.