

Monte Vista Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
3501 Campus Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87106

Live-streamed to our VistaStream YouTube channel
(<https://www.montevista.org/vistastream>)

Second Sunday of Advent

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?
We Find Joy in Connection

December 10, 2023

10:30am MT

Order of Worship

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol

Prelude

O Jesus süß
by Flor Peeters

Paulette McClellan

*Call to Worship

Bonnie Sanchez

One: One of the greatest joys of our collective worship is that it's not a solo act.

Left: We find joy.

Right: We find connection.

All: We find God.

One: When we gather together, we experience God opening doors to connect us with each other.

Left: We find welcome in our gathering.

Right: We find joy in our connection with God.

All: Surely God is in this space.

One: God meets us where we are and connects with us.

All: Let us worship our God together.

*Opening Prayer

Bonnie

One: Holy God, we know that you are near. We know that you are standing at the door
and inviting us in –

Left: into connection,

Right: into relationship,

All: into a deeper joy.

One: So, as we gather to worship you, O God, we pray: do not let us pass you by.

Left: Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us.

Right: Do not let us walk down this road without you.

All: Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run your way.

One: Give us the wisdom to hear your wisdom, to let it sink into our bones and change us.

All: With hope and gratitude we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Bonnie

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 forever. 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 God's arm rules for God; God's reward is with God, and God's recompense before God. The Lord will feed God's flock like a shepherd; God will gather the lambs in God's arms, and carry them in God's bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Hymn

Comfort, Comfort You My People

122

(Please share your prayer concerns & joys with the office at office@montevista.org.)

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dawn

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother. Holy is your name. May your love be embodied in the world. May your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Protect us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For all that we do in your love, and all that your love brings to birth, and the fullness of love that will be, are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

Advent Carol
by Dale Wood

Vista Voices

Sermon Text

Luke 1:24-45

Rev. Dawn

After those days Zechariah's wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when God looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people." In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And

Gabriel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his reign there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"We Find Joy in Connection"

Rev. Dawn

*Advent Litany (unison)

We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happiness,
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.

We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.

Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope.

And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,
we believe that part of being sacred community is leaning on one another.

So together we say:

I will share my joy when yours runs out.

You will share your joy when mine runs out.

And in doing so, we will both see God.

Thanks be to God for a peace like that!

Special Music

Christmas Lullaby
arr. by Kevin McChesney

Vista Bells

Sharing in Communion and Stewardship

Invitation to the Table

Anne Loveless

(Your tithes & offerings can be given via online donations on [our website](#),
on the [Givelify app](#), or by mailing your check to the church office. Thank you.)

*Communion Hymn	<i>I Come with Joy</i>	420
Words of Institution		Rev. Dawn
Prayers for the Elements		Anne
Receiving Communion Together as One Body in Christ		

(Everyone is encouraged to take Communion at the same time as signaled.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving		Rev. Dawn
*Closing Hymn	<i>Come, O Long-expected Jesus</i>	125
*Benediction		Rev. Dawn
Postlude	<i>Fantaisie [Huit Pièces pour Orgue, V]</i> by Jean Langlais	Paulette

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|                                                                |                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Worship Leader: Bonnie Sanchez                                 | Paulette McClellan, Organist/Pianist |
| Wally Miller, Sound                                            | Matthew Denman, Livestream           |
| Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol, Senior Minister, Preaching & Presiding |                                      |

# 79 Light Dawns on a Weary World

G D C G C

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -

G D G D

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

C G C G D G

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

This is a hymn whose tune came first. Upon hearing it, the author recalled the watered garden of Isaiah 58:11, which in turn led to Isaiah 55:12, paraphrased in the refrain. Then came the stanzas, organized around their first two words: Light dawns, Love grows, Hope blooms.

Refrain *G* *C* *G*

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;

Refrain

*G* *Em* *D* *C* *G*

the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!

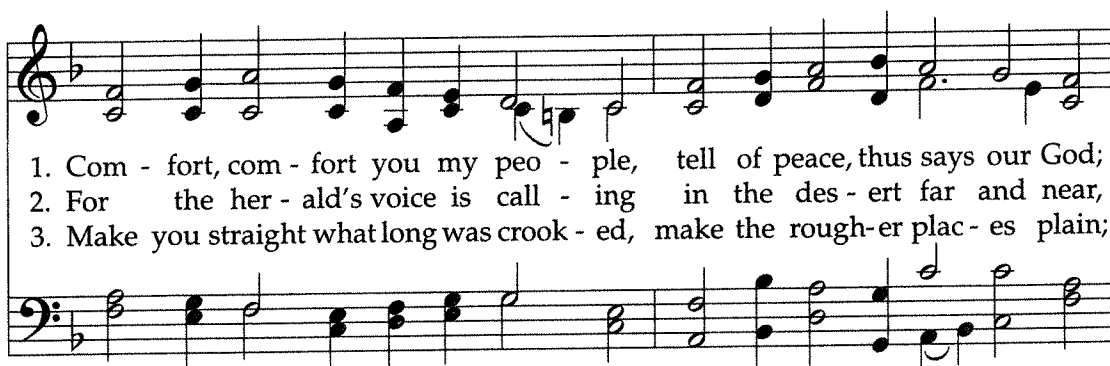
*C* *G*

We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,

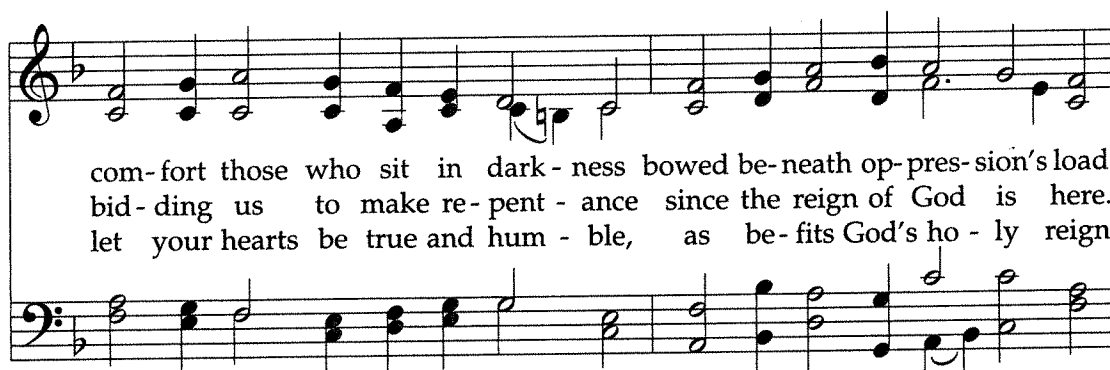
*G* *C* *D* *G*

as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

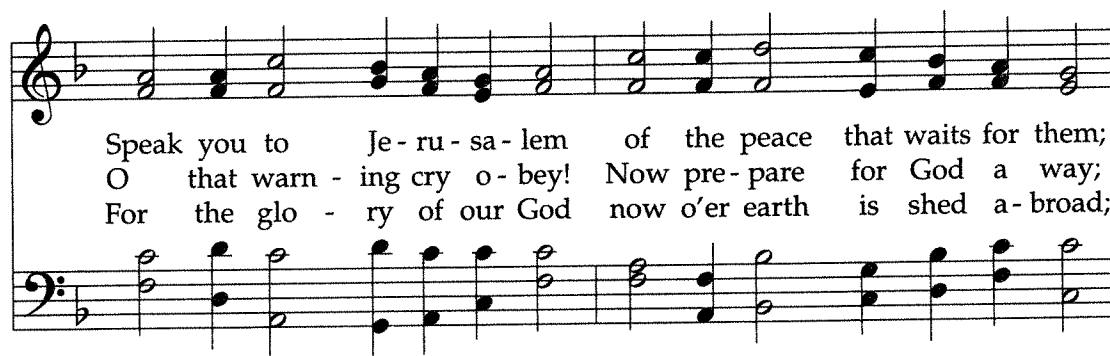
## 122 Comfort, Comfort You My People



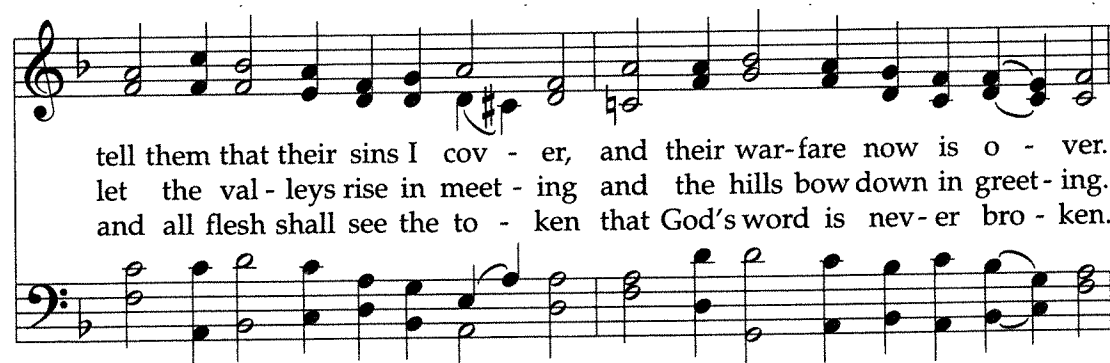
1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, tell of peace, thus says our God;  
 2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.  
 bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance since the reign of God is here.  
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 For the glo - ry of our God now o'er 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.

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

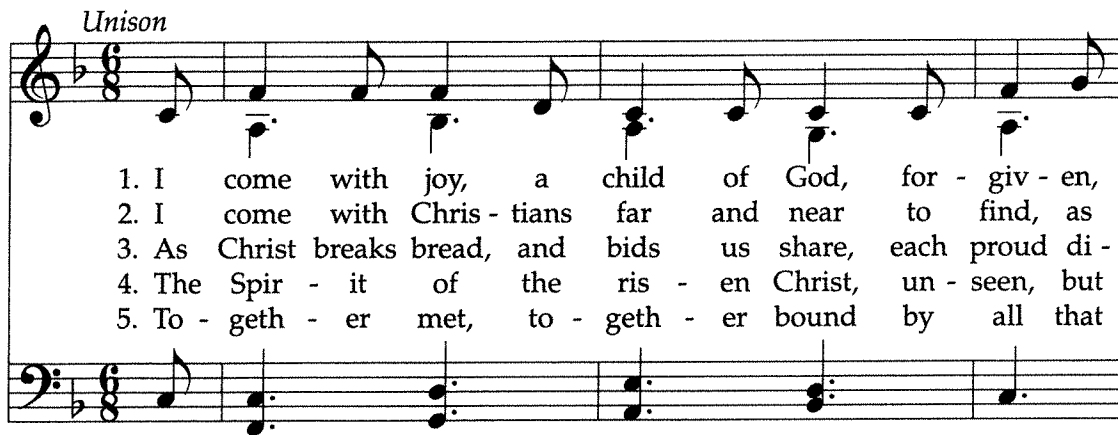
GENEVA 42  
 87.87.77.88

♩=140-148

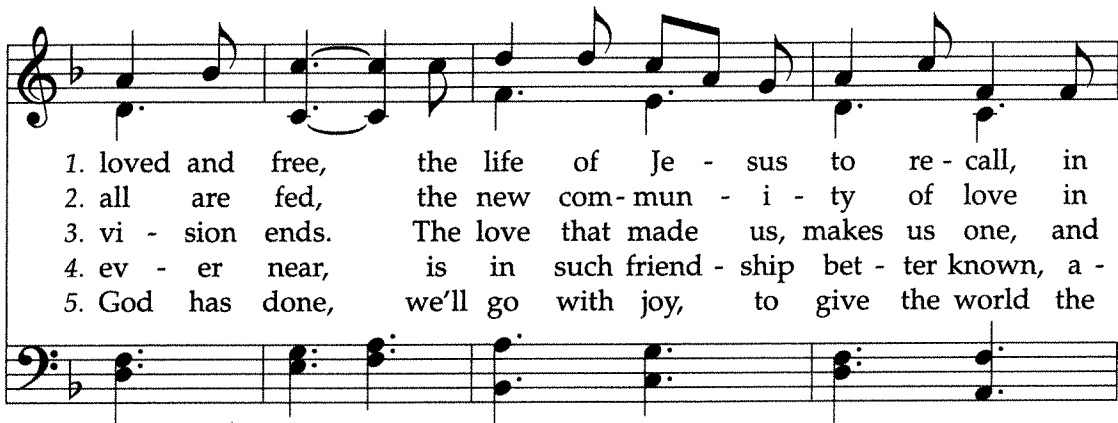
## I Come with Joy

420

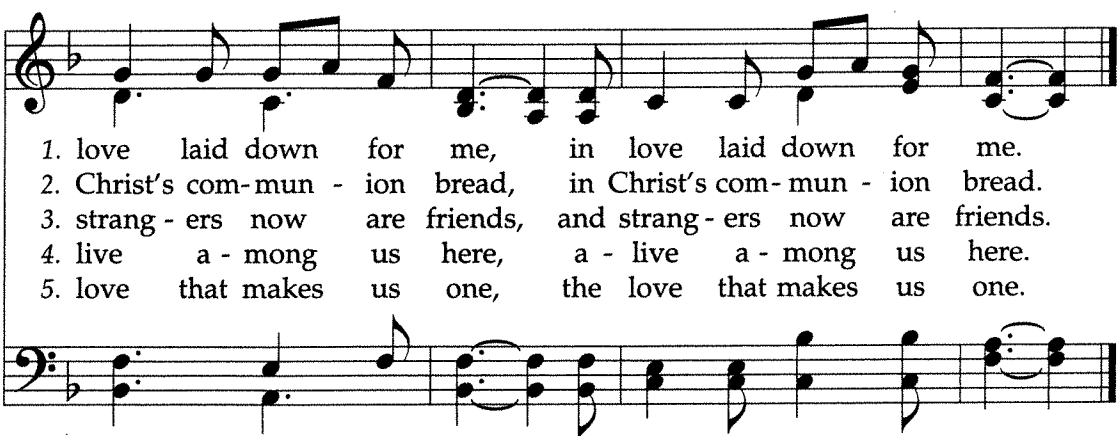
*Unison*



1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,  
 2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as  
 3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di -  
 4. The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but  
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that



1. loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 2. all are fed, the new com-mun - i - ty of love in  
 3. vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 4. ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 5. God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



1. love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 2. Christ's com-mun - ion bread, in Christ's com-mun - ion bread.  
 3. strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 4. live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 5. love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1969; rev. 1982, 1995

MUSIC: *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987DOVE OF PEACE  
CM


♩=66-72

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## Come, O Long-expected Jesus


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1. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set your peo-ple free.  
2. Born your peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,





From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring.




You, our strength and con-so-la-tion, come sal-va-tion to im-part;  
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;

dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.  
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-rious throne.



WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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