

VIRTUAL WORSHIP
December 12, 2021
Bread for the Journey – Third Sunday in Advent
An Act of Strength: Banana Bread

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

*O Come, All ye Faithful
The Visitation ¹*

GREETING

Rev. Laura Bair-Baker

CONFESSIONAL LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Loving and Merciful God,
today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy -
beacons of light that shine in the darkness.

All: *Today, we confess the ways we cause others to feel hopeless.* (Silent Confession)
Today, we confess the ways we crush people's joy. (Silent Confession)
Today, we confess the ways we diminish peace. (Silent Confession)
Forgive us, gracious God.
This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: At the beginning, at the end, and in every time in between,
the Good News speaks of God's tender mercy and love for us.

All: *God comes!*
Not to punish, but to gift us with peace,
not to judge, but to save us.
Thanks be to God!

Pastor: Alleluia!

All: *Amen.*

HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
(Verses 1 & 2, only)

Bulletin, Page 5

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 12:2

PSALTER

Psalm 147:1-6

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:10-14

SERMON

*An Act of Strength
Banana Bread*

Rev. Bair-Baker

OFFERING INVITATION

Pastor: Even in difficult times we remember that God has done great things for us. We choose to live our lives in hope, counting on the goodness of God in every age. As a sign of our trust in God, we share our gifts to strengthen the ministries of this church, Starview United Church of Christ and the wider church. In our tithes and offerings we extend hope, increase joy, and initiate peace. Let us dedicate all we give with a prayer.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROvvVu9Fi0U>. Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # Q-513253. All rights reserved. CCLI Church Copyright License #1332245, CCLI Church Streaming License #100773, CCS License #1005524

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: God of our Salvation, we will not be afraid to offer our hopes, our hearts, our treasures to you, but do so willingly, trusting that you will use them to bring life, hope, joy, and peace to all around us. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Messiah. Amen.

HYMN

Let There be Peace on Earth

Bulletin, Page 3 & 4

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Be people of peace.

Let peace live in your heart and share the peace of Christ with all you meet.

Share peace by acting out of compassion and kindness, not fear or selfishness.

Share peace by listening to all sides of the story.

Share peace by praying for our world.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creation, share peace, joy, and hope with all you meet.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with

me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was

meant to be. *With God our cre - a - tor,

chil - dren all are we. Let us

walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

*Original words: With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987

WORLD PEACE

Irr.

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment

now. With ev - ery step I take, let

this be my sol - emn vow: to take each mo - ment and

live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVKiIredcbc>) CCLI Song # 93690

Jill Jackson | Sy Miller

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.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=119C58F3dnQ>)

CCLI Song # 4678935. Catherine Winkworth | Johannes G. Olearius | John L. Bell | Louis Bourgeois