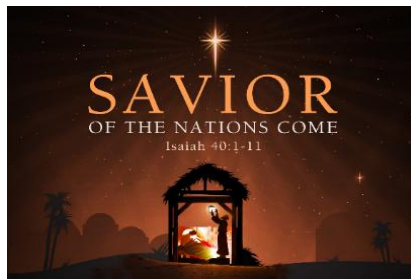




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PRAISE ABLAZE

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 • 11 AM • FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People.

Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened through the study of God's Word and empowered to live as His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; a small area is set up in the atrium for children with "wiggles"; and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the rear parking lot entrance to your left as you exit the atrium doors of the Multi-Ministry Center (MMC). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the *Guest* side of the *Welcome Card* found in the pews/chair backs and place it in the offering baskets. **Holy Communion** questions, please see purple sheets on *Info Table*.

As We Gather: The prophet writes in Isaiah 40:1, "Comfort, comfort my people." Gone is the scornful "this people" of Isaiah 6:9. Now it's "my people!" The words explode with comfort, for this is God's covenant promise, "I will be your God, and you will be my people" (Exodus 6:7). Comfort comes in Isaiah 40:1 and comfort appears in the words of Isaiah 40:11, "He will tend his flock like a Shepherd."

A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen today...

Message Pastor Rev. Jason Hoerth
Children's Message Chris Graves DCE
Deaconess Intern Julia Witt
Cont. Worship Ldr. Dyann Cooper

Reader Abby O'Grady
Elder Duke McKinley
Acolyte..... Henry Brown
Tech Paul Vollbracht

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome/ Video

"Come and See, Hope" – Skit Guys

Opening Worship

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Holy Forever*

Call to Worship

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath/
Confession and Absolution**

Children's Message

God's Word *(see opposite or screens)*

*Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Corinthians 1:3-10
Matthew 11:1-15*

(Children excused for Children's Church.)

Offering *(Thanks for your support of God's mission here.)*

Today's Message

(Children return from Children's Church.)

What We Believe

Apostles' Creed

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Blessing / Song

Great Things

Dismissal

Acknowledgments

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

(The bold section is read together.)

(Comfort Given to God's People.)

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 1:3-10

(God of All Comfort.)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also

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EPISTLE (cont.)

2 Corinthians 1:3-10

share in our comfort. ⁸For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:1-15

(Messengers from John the Baptist.)

¹When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. ²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

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