



Christmas 2020

Isaiah 40:1

December 23, 24, 25, 2020

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Centuries ago, **the prophet Isaiah comforted** the ancient Israelites with the promise of the Messiah, the coming Savior of the World.

"Comfort! Comfort! My people!" Isaiah proclaimed. He told them that they had peace with God, their sins were pardoned, that they were loved and accepted by God.

The Old Testament word **Comfort!** means **to breathe deeply; to take a breath** --> it's the idea of peace and relief and wellbeing.

Tonight we have that same **Comfort!**

The Lord speaks through Isaiah to us tonight and says, **"Comfort! Comfort! My people!"**

You can take a deep breath and you can be at peace because Jesus was born in Bethlehem! He is the long awaited Messiah of the Old Testament; He is the promised Savior who brings life to the world! You are loved and accepted by God because of the Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem!

Jesus is the Messiah that Isaiah proclaimed centuries ago; Jesus is the long awaited and promised Savior of the Old Testament! **God is faithful!** He kept His Word and Promises, and Jesus was born in Bethlehem! We have **Comfort!** tonight because **God is faithful!**

You can take a deep breath and believe the Christmas Gospel!

The Christmas Good News is that God sent His Son Jesus to do what we could not do; Jesus, the Son of God, born in Bethlehem, would do the work of salvation for us and on our behalf. The Name “Jesus” means “Savior”, and that is exactly who He is and what He has done: He saved us. He saved you by His abundant grace. He saved you by His compassionate mercy. Jesus lived a perfect life for you under the Law of God; and He died on a cross to pay for all our sins. In His resurrection from the dead on the third day, you have peace with God, your sins are pardoned, you are loved and accepted by God, and you have been given the gift of eternal life!

Because of Jesus, you have **Comfort!** tonight. **You can take a deep breath; be at peace!**

- ⇒ The work of salvation is not hanging over you!
- ⇒ You do not have to strive to please God!
- ⇒ You do not have to figure out how to make up for your sins!
- ⇒ You don't have to hide because of your shame!
- ⇒ You do not have to run from God because of your guilt!
- ⇒ You do not have to live in the fear of dying!
- ⇒ You do not have to dread the final judgment!

You can take a deep breath and be at peace. You have **Comfort!** tonight because Jesus was born in Bethlehem!

God sent Jesus to **rescue** and to **deliver** you from sin so that you are **safe** from death and you will **escape** final judgment. Tonight, you have **Comfort!** **Take a deep breath and be at peace.**

The Prophet Isaiah speaks to you tonight: **“Comfort! Comfort! My people!”** You have **peace with God**, your **sins are pardoned**, and you are **loved and accepted by the Lord God Almighty**. **Take a deep breath and be at peace!**

The Christmas story is the story of God's great love and compassion for you! God intervenes in human history to do what we could not do.

It's a love story --- and a salvation story! It's a dramatic rescue story!
It's a story of God's great love for you, *personally, and individually!*

Tonight, don't harden your heart; don't close your ears.

- ⇒ Rather hear and believe this Good News about Jesus.
- ⇒ Believe that it is true, and that you are included!

God speaks words of **comfort** and **peace** to you – **RIGHT NOW.**

- ⇒ Jesus is the Savior God sent for you!
- ⇒ You have been forgiven all of your sins because of Jesus!
- ⇒ You have been reconciled with God and have peace with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ You have been given all the gifts of salvation!

Tonight, don't harden your heart; don't close your ears.

Rather, hear and believe this Gospel Good News about Jesus. Believe that it is true, and that you are included! God speaks words of **comfort** and **peace** to you – **RIGHT NOW.**

Words from a prophet 2,700 years ago ring true even tonight!
"Comfort! Comfort! My people!" says the prophet Isaiah.

Tonight, **take a deep breath and be at peace!**

God sent a Savior for you: **HIS NAME IS JESUS**

- ⇒ You have **peace with God,**
- ⇒ your **sins are pardoned,** and
- ⇒ you are **loved and accepted by God.**

Be comforted! Take a deep breath!
You have peace with God because of Jesus,
born in Bethlehem!

AMEN!

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak 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. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 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. 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Luke 2:1-20

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.