

plac - es plain; Let your hearts be

1. says our God; com - fort those who sit in
 3. plac - es plain; let your hearts be true and

F/C C F Bb/F m #dim7 /C Am/C Dm/B E7

hum - ble, As be - ly reign.

1. dark - ness, Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
 3. hum - ble, As be - fits the ho - ly reign.

Asus4 Am Dm C/E F Bbm7/C C F Fsus4

For God's glo - ry Now

mf

1. Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the
 3. For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er

F Am/E Dm F/C Am

is _____ shed a - broad; And all flesh shall see the

1. peace that waits for them; Tell of all the sins I
 3. earth is shed a - broad; And of all flesh shall see the

Bb/D C/E F Bb Dm/B Csus4 E C/E Dm

to - ken _____ That his word is nev - er

1. cov - er, _____ and that war - fare now is
 3. to - ken _____ This his word is nev - er

Bbm/Db F/C Gm7/C Am/C Gm/C F/C

bro - ken. _____

1. o - ver. _____
 3. bro - ken. _____

C7 Csus4 F Am/E Dm7 F/C

mp

Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C Last time Fsus4 F

mf *mf* *rit.* *p*

to Verse 2

*VERSE 2

S *mf*

2. Hark, the voice of _____ who's cry - ing In the

T *mf*

B

F Am/E Dm G7 Csus4 C F/A C/E

mp

2. des - ert far and _____ Bid - ding all to

Dm Bbm/Db F/C C Am/E

*Verse 2 chord inversions support the choral parts.

2. full re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is

Dm E7 Am Dm/B Bbm F/C C

2. here. O that warn ing cry o - bey!

f *f* *mf*

F Am/E /D Bb/D A/C#

W
R
M
A
S

2. Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the

mf

Dm7 C/E Dm/F Gm F/A B \flat Dm/B Csus4 C F

mp

W
L
R

2. val - leys rise to meet him And the

C7/E F/E Dm Gm/D B \flat m/D \flat F/C

N
A
S

2. hills___ bow down to greet___ him. ___

Gm/C F/C Gm/C Dm/C C F Am/E Dm7

mp

This system contains the first two staves of music. The vocal line is in the upper staff, and the piano accompaniment is in the lower two staves. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano).

F/C Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C

mf *D.S.*

This system contains the second two staves of music. The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and a *D.S.* (Da Segno) instruction at the end of the system.

W
R
A
S

Performance Notes

Comfort, Comfort, O My People is a beloved passage from scripture, set to a well-known hymn tune. Chapter 40 begins the second section of Isaiah, “The Book of the Consolation of Israel,” as it is called in the *New Jerusalem Bible*. Written near the end of the exile of Israel, these passages were meant as an encouragement to those who were preparing to return to Jerusalem. Notice also the foreshadowing of the prophet John, the “one who’s crying in the desert far and near.”

This passage is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Advent in Year B, but the piece is certainly also appropriate for the second and third Sundays of Advent in every year, when the gospel passages refer to John the Baptist.

Regarding the music, I have found that assemblies sometimes have a hard time understanding and singing the original dance rhythm of this hymn. Therefore, I have “straightened” the rhythm, placing the tune in a consistent 3/4 meter.

—Gerard Chiusano

W
L
S
A
M
P
L
E

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

for Pamela Rauscher, Ph.D.

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on Isaiah 40:1-8
 Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684);
 Translated by Catherine Winkworth, (1827-1888), alt.

GENEVA 42, 87 87 77 88
 Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)
Genevan Psalter, 1551
 Arranged by Gerard Chiusano

INTRO *Gently* (♩ = 92-100)
 Capo 3: (D) F (F#m/C#) Am/E (G7) Dm7 (D/A) F/C (Gmaj7) Bbmaj7

VERSES 1, 3
 (F#m7) Am7 (Bm7) Dm7 (Em) Gm (Em7) Gm7 (Asus4) Csus4 (A) F (D) F/C# (D/C#) F/E (Bm7) Dm7 (E7) G7
mp - mf

Com - fort, com - fort, O my
 O make straight what long was

(Asus4) Csus4 (A) C (D/F#) F/A (A/E) C/G (Bm/D) Dm/F (D) Bb (G/D) Bb/F (Bm) Dm (A#°7) C#°7

1. peo - ple, Speak of peace, now says our God; Com - fort
 3. crook - ed, Make the rough - er plain; Let your

(D/A) F/C (F#m/A) Am/C (Bm/G#) Dm/B (C#7) E7 (F#sus4) Am (Bm) Dm (A/C#) C/E (D) F (Gm/Bb) Bbm/Db

1. those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing 'neath their
 3. hearts be true and hum As be - fits his

(D/A) F/C (A) C (D) F (Dsus4) F#sus4 (F#m/C#) Am/E (Bm) Dm (D/A) F/C

1. sor - rows' load. Speak un Je - ru - sa - lem
 3. ho - ly reign. F th gr - ry of the Lord

(F#m) Am (G/B) Bb/D (A/C#) C/E (D) F (G) Bb (Bm/G#) Dm/B (Dsus4) Csus4 (A) C (D) F

1. Of the peace that waits for them; Tell of
 3. Now o'er earth is shed a - broad; And all

(A/C#) C/E (Bm) Dm (Gm/Bb) Bbm/Db (D/A) F/C (Em7/A) Gm7/C (F#m/A) Am/C

1. all the sins I cov - er, And that war - fare
 3. flesh shall see the to - ken That his word is

(Em/A) (D/A) (A7) (Asus4) (D) (F#m/C#) (Bm7) (D/A) (Gmaj7)
 Gm/C F/C C7 Csus4 F Am/E Dm7 F/C Bbmaj7

1. now is o - ver. _____
 3. nev - er bro - ken. _____

(F#m7) (Bm7) (Em) (Em7) (Asus4) (A) (D) (Dsus4)
 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C to Verse 2 Fsus4 rit. F p

Last time

*VERSE 2
 (D) (F#m/C#) (Bm) (E7) (Asus4) (D) (D/F#) (A/C#) (Bm) (Gm/Bb)
 F Am/E Dm G7 Csus4 F/A C/E Dm Bbm/Db

2. Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing In the des - ert

(D/A) (A) (D) (F#m/C#) (Bm) (C#7) (F#m)
 F/C C F Am/E Dm E7 Am

2. far and near, Bid - ding all to full re - pent - ance

(Bm) (A) (Bm/G#) (Gm) (D/A) (D) (F#m/C#)
 Dm C Dm/B Bbm F/C C F f Am/E

2. Since the king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing

(D/B) (G/B) (F#m/A#) (Bm7) (A/C#) (Bm7/D) (Em) (D/F#) (G) (Bm/G#)
 F/D Bb/D A/C# Dm7 C/E Dm/E Gm F/A Bb Dm/B

2. cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a

(Asus4) (A) (D) (A7/C#) (D/C#) (Bm) (Em/B) (Gm/Bb)
 Csus4 C F C7/E F/E Dm Gm/D Bbm/Db

2. way; Let the v - leys rise to meet him

(D/A) (Em/A) (D/A) (Em/A) (Bm7) (A) (A) (D) (F#m/C#)
 F/C Gm/C F/C Gm/C C/C C F Am/E

2. And the hills bow down to greet him.

(Bm7) (D/A) (Gmaj7) (F#m7) (Bm7) (Em) (Em7) (Asus4) (A)
 Dm7 F/C Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C D.S.

D.S.

*When keyboard is accompanying, guitar may effectively tacet verse 2.

Assembly Edition

COMFORT, COMFORT, O MY PEOPLE

GENEVA 42, alt.

1. Com - fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple, Speak of peace, now
 2. Hark, the voice of the Lord, In the des - ert
 3. O make straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er

1. says our God; Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
 2. far and near, Bid - ding all to full re - pent - ance
 3. plac - es plain; Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

1. Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows sad. Speak un - to Je -
 2. Since the king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing
 3. As be - fits his holy reign. For the glo - ry

1. ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 2. cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 3. of the Lord Now pre - pared a - broad;

1. Tell of all the sins that he has done, ev - er,
 2. Let the val - leys rise up to meet him
 3. And all flesh shall bow down to the to - ken

1. And that war - fare now is over.
 2. And the hills bow down to greet him.
 3. That his word is fulfilled and bro - ken.

Text: 87 87 77 88; based on Isaiah 40:1-8; John Chrysostom, 16th century; Gregorius, 16th century-1684; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
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