



**Covenant Church  
Presbyterian Church in America  
Fayetteville, Arkansas**

**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP  
THE LORD'S DAY  
December 11, 2022  
10:30 a.m.**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**† Call to Worship**

**Isaiah 40:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

**† Invocation & Lord's Prayer**

**Unison**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**† Hymn of Praise**

**# 318 (TH#214)**

**"Angels we have Heard on High"**

**Confession of Sin**

Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but

you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ.  
Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Silent Confession

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Isaiah 55:6,7**

<sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

### **† Hymn of Assurance**

**#298 (TH #197)**

**“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”**

### **† Confession of Faith**

Heidelberg Catechism, Q1 and 2

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

2. Q. What do you need to know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. First, how great my sins and misery are; second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance.

## Pastoral Prayer

### Scripture Reading

### Ezekiel 33:10-33

<sup>10</sup> “And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup> Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>12</sup> “And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup> Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup> Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup> if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup> None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. <sup>17</sup> “Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup> When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup> And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. <sup>20</sup> Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.” <sup>21</sup> In the twelfth year of our exile, in the tenth month, on the fifth day of the month, a fugitive from Jerusalem came to me and said, “The city has been struck down.” <sup>22</sup> Now the hand of the Lord had been upon me the evening before the fugitive came; and he had opened my mouth by the time the man came to me in the morning, so my mouth was opened, and I was no longer mute. <sup>23</sup> The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>24</sup> “Son of man, the inhabitants of these waste places in the land of Israel keep saying, ‘Abraham was only one man, yet he got possession of the land; but we are many; the land is surely given us to possess.’ <sup>25</sup> Therefore say to them, Thus says the Lord God: You eat flesh with the blood and lift up your eyes to your idols and shed blood; shall you then possess the land? <sup>26</sup> You rely on the sword, you commit abominations, and each of you defiles his neighbor's wife; shall you then

possess the land? <sup>27</sup> Say this to them, Thus says the Lord God: As I live, surely those who are in the waste places shall fall by the sword, and whoever is in the open field I will give to the beasts to be devoured, and those who are in strongholds and in caves shall die by pestilence. <sup>28</sup> And I will make the land a desolation and a waste, and her proud might shall come to an end, and the mountains of Israel shall be so desolate that none will pass through. <sup>29</sup> Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I have made the land a desolation and a waste because of all their abominations that they have committed. <sup>30</sup> “As for you, son of man, your people who talk together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to his brother, ‘Come, and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.’” <sup>31</sup> And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain. <sup>32</sup> And behold, you are to them like one who sings lustful songs with a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument, for they hear what you say, but they will not do it. <sup>33</sup> When this comes—and come it will!—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

## **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Paul Sagan

### **“The Way of Life”**

Worship with Tithes & Offerings

† **Doxology**

**#572 (TH #735)**

### **“Gloria Patri”**

† Prayer of Dedication

† **Hymn of Preparation**

**#100B (TH #1)**

### **“All People that On Earth Do Dwell”**

† **Benediction**

# **SERMON OUTLINE**

**Dec. 11, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Ezekiel 33:10-33**  
**“The Way of Life”**

## Introduction

1. The Way of Life (v. 10, 11)
2. The Way of Death (v. 12-16)
3. God's Justice (v. 17-20)
4. The True Prophet (v. 21-33)

## Conclusion

## **Devotional Readings**

December 12- 16, 2022

Monday: Read Ezekiel 33:10, 11; Ez. 18:23; Acts 3:19

Does God delight in the death of the unsaved? How should we view it?

Tuesday: Read Ezekiel 33:12-16; 2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 1:18

What is required for the sins of God's people to be forgiven?

Wednesday: Read Ezekiel 33:17-20; Ez. 18:25

Why did the people of Israel say that the way of the Lord was not good?

Thursday: Read Ezekiel 33: 21-22; Gen. 52: 12, 13; Ezra 7:9,  
2 Kings 25:2-11; Ez. 3:26

Who struck down the city of Jerusalem?

To what extent has Ezekiel been mute since Ezekiel 3:26?

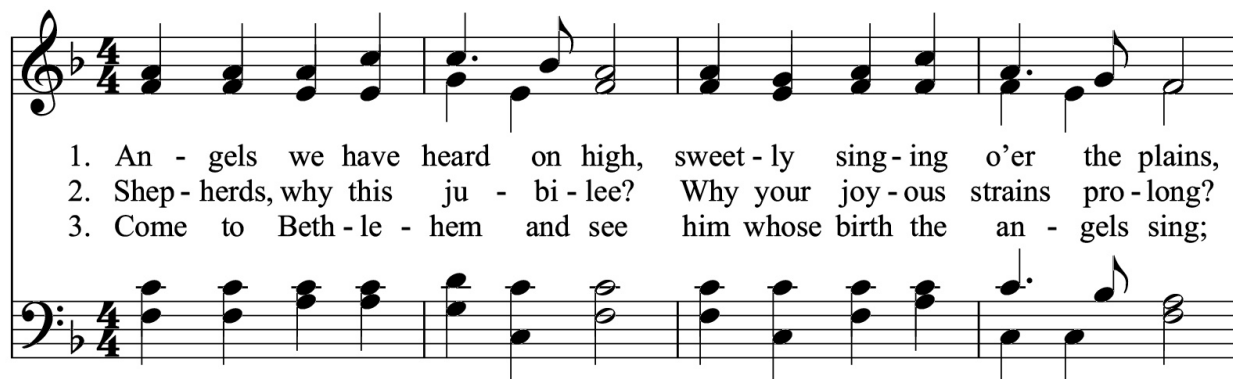
Friday: Read Ezekiel 33:23-29; Micah 7:13

What is the Word of God to those inhabiting the land?

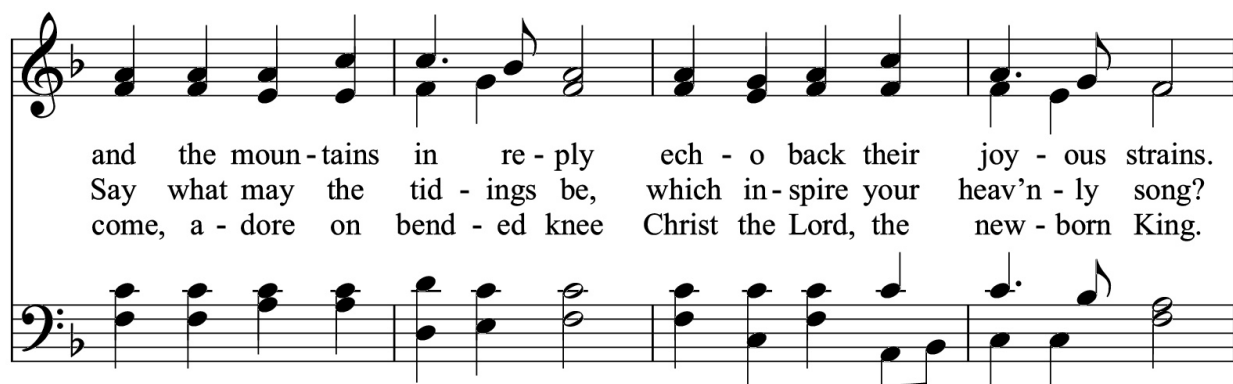
Saturday: Read Ezekiel 33:30-33; 1 John 3:18

What was Ezekiel like to the people he prophesied to?

## Angels We Have Heard on High



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,



glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

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1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;  
 3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.  
 all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.  
 bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.  
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way;  
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 God will change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.



## Gloria Patri

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Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in

the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er

shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

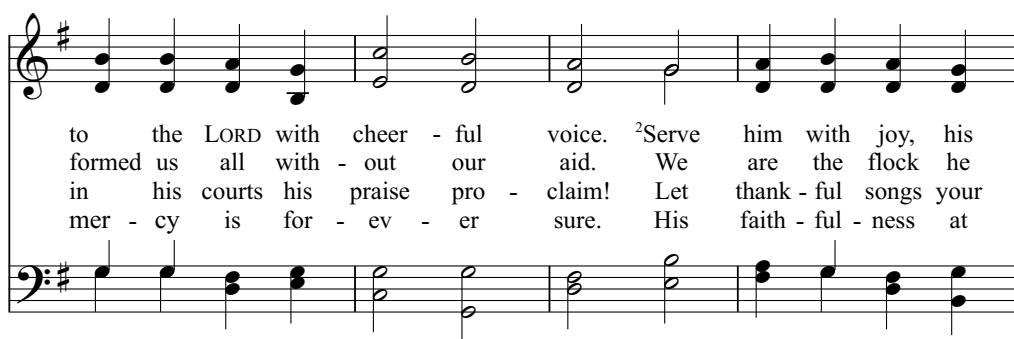
2nd cent.; tr.

GLORIA PATRI (Greatest) Irreg.  
Henry W. Greatest, 1851

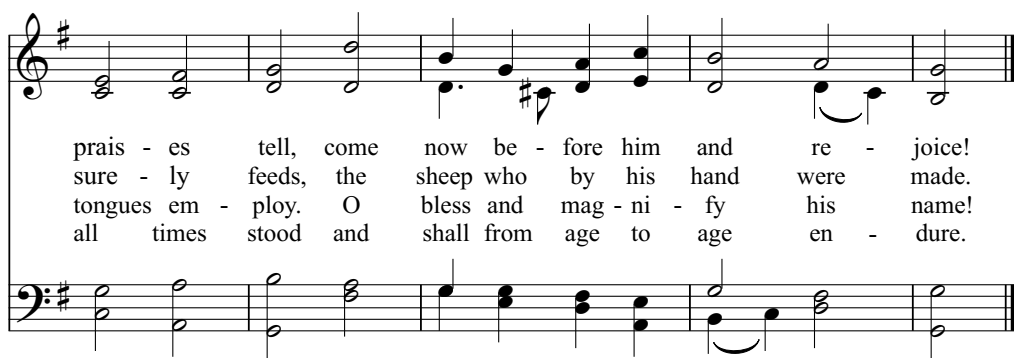
# Psalm 100B



1. <sup>1</sup>All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing  
 2. <sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God in - deed; he  
 3. <sup>4</sup>O en - ter then his gates with joy, with -  
 4. <sup>5</sup>Be - cause the LORD our God is good, his



to the LORD with cheer - ful voice. <sup>2</sup>Serve him with joy, his  
 formed us all with - out our aid. We are the flock he  
 in his courts his praise pro - claim! Let thank - ful songs your  
 mer - cy is for - ev - er sure. His faith - ful - ness at



prais - es tell, come now be - fore him and re - joice!  
 sure - ly feeds, the sheep who by his hand were made.  
 tongues em - ploy. O bless and mag - ni - fy his name!  
 all times stood and shall from age to age en - dure.

William Kethe, 1561; alt.

GENEVAN 134/OLD 100th L.M.  
 Louis Bourgeois, 1551