

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:1 and 2 Cor 1:3

HYMN: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

## OUR COMFORT

Have you ever had the wonderful opportunity to hear a performance of Handel’s *Messiah*? I have only recently been introduced to it- other than hearing the “Hallelujah Chorus”. (That one you may recognize, too.) What I learned about Handel’s *Messiah* has made me want to hear it more and more: it is completely God’s Word, put to music. Handel masterfully wrote music that captures the passion and emotion behind the words, as well. It is an incredible experience to hear this amazing production!

The first words sung in *Messiah* are so captivating. They are: “‘Comfort ye, my people’, saith your God.” (Isaiah 40:1) In other words, the first thought that the Lord inspired Handel to write was of comforting His people. Isn’t that a comforting thought?!

The Lord calls Himself, in 2 Corinthians 1:3, “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort”. He calls His Spirit, “the Comforter”. These Names that He uses to describe Himself show us that He is more than willing to comfort us. Do you need comfort today? There is no one better to go to than Him!



Have you ever received the Lord’s comfort for your soul in your times of need? I sure have! Sometimes His comfort feels like a healing balm for my heart. Other times, He gives me an assurance that He is very near. Sometimes He answers my need by sending a trusted friend in my path, to listen and understand.

If you have not felt such comfort from our God, one question I ask you is, have you asked Him for it? It is a simple question, but sometimes we do not realize that we have not asked God for help, especially if we turn to others instead of Him. This is probably what we do if we find that our friends are closer to us than the Lord. If we do not have a close relationship to the Lord in everyday life, then we will not turn to him in difficult times.

Another thing we must keep in mind is that we can be completely honest with our feelings with God- we can pour out our hearts, like Jesus did when He was in the garden, before he was crucified. He wasn’t afraid to tell our Heavenly Father, “It hurts!”

The Lord is our Counselor, better than any person could be, because He always understands us, and He has compassion for us. Take it to heart what the hymn writer wrote: “What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear... Take it to the Lord in prayer... thou wilt find a solace there.”