

# Comfort, Comfort, O My People

for Pamela Rauscher, Ph.D.

Based on Isaiah 40:1-8  
 Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684);  
 Translated by Catherine Winkworth, (1827-1878), alt.

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

**INTRO** *Gently* (♩ = 92-100)

Keyboard

*p*

F Am/E Dm7 F/C

**§ VERSES 1, 3**

Solo or Section *mp - mf*

1. Com - fort,  
 3. O make

B♭maj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C F

**Descant**

*mf*

O ——— make straight the crook - ed, Make the rough - er

1. com - fort, O my peo - ple, Speak of peace, now  
 3. straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er

F/E Dm7 G7 Csus4 C F/A C/G Dm/F B♭

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

hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign.

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

Asus4 Am Dm C/E F Bbm/Db F/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 all flesh shall see the

B $\flat$ /D C/E F B $\flat$  Dm/B Csus4 C                      F                      C/E                      Dm

to - ken \_\_\_\_\_                      That his word is nev - er

1. cov - er, \_\_\_\_\_                      And that war - fare now is  
 3. to - ken \_\_\_\_\_                      That his word is nev - er

B $\flat$ m/D $\flat$                       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* *last time: dim.* *rit.* *p*

to Verse 2

\*VERSE 2

S *mf*

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

T

B *mf*

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

*mp*

2. des - ert far and near, Bid - ding all to

Dm Bbm/Db F/C C F 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 C Dm/B Bbm F/C C

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

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

*f* *mf*

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*

2. val - leys rise — to meet him — And the

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

2. hills\_\_\_ bow down to greet\_\_\_ him. \_\_\_

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

*mp*

F/C Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C

*mf*

*D.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*

# Comfort, Comfort, O My People

for Pamela Rauscher, Ph.D.

(Guitar/Vocal)

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GENEVA 42, 87 87 77 88  
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**INTRO** *Gently* (♩ = 92-100)

Capo 3: (D) F (F#m/C#) Am/E (Bm7) Dm7 (D/A) F/C (Gmaj7) Bbmaj7

**VERSES 1, 3**

(F#m7) (Bm7) (Em) (Em7) (Asus4) (A) (D) (D/C#) (Bm7) (E7)  
 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C F F/E Dm7 G7

*mp - mf*

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

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

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

(D/A) (F#m/A) (Bm/G#) (C#7) (F#sus4) (F#m) (Bm) (A/C#) (D) (Gm/Bb)  
 F/C Am/C Dm/B E7 Asus4 Am Dm C/E F Bbm/Db

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

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

1. sor - rows' load. \_\_\_\_\_ Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 3. ho - ly reign. \_\_\_\_\_ For the glo - ry of the Lord

(F#m) (G/B) (A/C#) (D) (G) (Bm/G#) (Asus4) (A) (D)  
 Am Bb/D C/E F Bb Dm/B C#sus4 C F

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

(A/C#) (Bm) (Gm/Bb) (D/A) (Em7/A) (F#m/A)  
 C/E Dm Bbm/Db F/C Gm7/C 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) (D)  
 Am7 Dm7 Gm Gm7 Csus4 C to Verse 2 Fsus4 rit. Fp

Last time

## \*VERSE 2

(D) (F#m/C#) (Bm) (E7) (Asus4) (A) (D/F#) (A/C#) (Bm) (Gm/Bb)  
 F Am/E Dm G7 Csus4 C 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) (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#/A#) (Bm7) (A/C#) (Bm/D) (Em) (D/F#) (G) (Bm/G#)  
 F/D Bb/D A/C# Dm7 C/E Dm/F 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 val - leys rise to meet him

(D/A) (Em/A) (D/A) (Em/A) (Bm/A) (A) (D) (F#m/C#)  
 F/C Gm/C F/C Gm/C Dm/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.

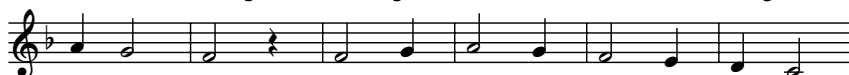
## Assembly Edition

### 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 one who's cry - ing 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' load. Speak un - to Je -
2. Since the king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing
3. As be - fits his ho - ly 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 o'er earth is shed a - broad;



1. Tell of all the sins I cov - er,
2. Let the val - leys rise to meet him
3. And all flesh shall see the to - ken



1. And that war - fare now is o - ver.
2. And the hills bow down to greet him.
3. That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: 87 87 77 88; based on Isaiah 40:1-8; Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.  
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